

**EMHRN**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

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Euromed Human Rights Foundation

Statutes of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

Position paper on EMHRN and the Kurdish problem

List of Publications

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At its 4th General Assembly Meeting in Carry Le Rouet, Marseille, 7-8 November 2000, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network adopted an Action Plan for its future work and elected an Executive Committee responsible for implementing the plan.

The plan was established on the basis of the EMHRN's overall objectives to

- Support and publicize the universal principles of human rights as expressed by all international instruments on human rights and as expressed by the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995.
- Strengthen, assist and coordinate the efforts of its members to monitor compliance by the Partner States with the principles of the Barcelona Declaration in the field of human rights;
- Support the development of democratic institutions, the promotion of rule of law, human rights and human rights education in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

It was furthermore based on the assumption that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the accompanying Barcelona process, despite serious flaws, offer an important framework for human rights, democracy and civil society promotion and protection, and on the relevance of linking the EMHRN program of activities to the official agenda of the EMP, while maintaining an independent and critical stance on the Partnership's development.

The general methodology outlined in the plan was based on three main elements:

- **Information, documentation and dissemination** implying the objective to raise awareness of the human rights dimension of the Barcelona process among the members of the EMHRN and the public at large, and inform the EMP mechanisms and the public about the human rights situation in the region as well as about the work of human rights organisations.
- **Dialogue, lobbying and campaigning** implying EMHRN participation in the strengthening of the human rights mechanisms embedded in the Barcelona process, and the promotion of dialogue between civil society and the EMP institutions in the field of human rights.
- **Capacity building and general education through the** strengthening of communication and exchanges between human rights organisations, and promoting the development of joint projects between EMHRN members.

In terms of policies these methodologies were adapted to dealing with human rights issues within four fields of work:

- **Regional mechanisms** aimed at promoting implementation of strong human rights instruments within the EuroMed region on the basis on EMP commitment to human rights.
- **Key initiatives:** EMHRN participation in dialogue with governments and in the EuroMed Civil Forums.
- **Thematic priorities** outlining key human rights issues relevant for the EuroMed region:
  - The protection of human rights defenders, including freedom of association and expression
  - Justice and equal access to justice
  - Women's rights
  - Migrants' and asylum seekers rights, and human exchange
  - Human rights education

- Self-determination and the rights of refugees
- Economic, social and cultural rights
- **Country priorities** outlining Algeria, Tunisia and Syria as main countries of concern (apart from Palestine-Israel) due to the difficult situation of civil society, and outlining the need to develop focussed plans for individual countries.

A mid-term discussion of progress, or lack of development of the plan, took place at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Athens, June 2002, during which several suggestions were made to enrich the Action plan. On this basis the Executive Committee, at its meeting in Istanbul October 2002, established a set of goals for the remaining period while confirming the division of responsibilities set-up in 2001:

- Abdelaziz Bennani, President and Justice
- Kamel Jendoubi, Management group, Advocacy in Brussels, the Civil Forum, the EuroMed Human Rights Foundation and Tunisia
- Morten Kjaerum, Management group, Dialogue with governments and EcoSoc Rights
- Colm Regan, Management group and Human Rights Education
- Khader Skhirat, Self-determination and the rights of refugees, in particular the Palestinian question;
- Driss El Yazami: Women's rights
- Bahey El-Din Hassan, Freedom of Association and Expression and Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- Nazmi Gur, Interim treasurer and Migration
- Eva Norstroem, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The purpose of the present report is to describe the activities carried out by the EMHRN within the framework of the Action Plan with a specific focus on activities that are not dealt with in the Activity report adopted at the GAM in Athens, i.e. the period from 1 May 2002 to 30 September 2003.

It is structured according to the policy priorities outlined in the Action plan. It seeks to narrate the activities of the EMHRN while enumerating the achievements, or the lack of such, in the various fields of work.

The overall assumption is that the EMHRN succeeded in developing important instruments within the fields of A. Information, documentation and dissemination. B. Dialogue, advocacy and campaigning. C. Capacity building and education. However, an evaluation of the impact of the instruments established by the EMHRN would benefit from an external systematic assessment.

The EMHRN also succeeded significantly in strengthening its internal organisational capacity.

Furthermore, it is also the assumption that the EMHRN established a strong presence in Brussels in relation to the EU and EMP institutions and in formulating initiatives and policies on a regional level. It has also established a strong presence within the Barcelona process being one of its key civil society networks.

Thematically, the EMHRN has been pioneering in producing some innovative reports and in experimenting on methodologies for bringing members together in meaningful context by means of working groups. Some of the latter initiatives succeeded, some did not but a pool of experience now exists upon which to build future work.

The work on country level and in relation to member needs on the ground did produce significant results in some cases. However, work is still carried out on an *ad hoc* basis and depends on fluxes in human resources available. Much work directed at country level could benefit from a strengthened EMHRN external and internal communication profile.

The strength of the EMHRN lies in its network structure and in the interrelation between members as well as members and the structures of the EMHRN: the Executive Committee, the Working Groups and the Secretariat. This implies a genuine interdependence of the said structures. The present report seeks to show how this interdependence works.

However, the EMHRN is not in the position yet to show how member activities shape the presence and visibility of the EMHRN in all parts of the EuroMed region. A strengthened internal communication would greatly help such an endeavour. This implies members reporting back on their activities to the executive bodies of the EMHRN and that stronger instruments are established by the latter to record and diffuse this information back to and between the members.

## 2. MEETINGS OF EMHRN EXECUTIVE BODIES

<b>Plan of Action:</b> No Mention
<b>Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM</b>
<b>General Objective</b> Adopt and conduct overall policies of the EMHRN according to statutes.
<b>Mid-term Objective</b> Follow-up on GAM recommendations. Prepare for next elective GAM. Strengthening internal work procedures.
<b>Achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implementation of main points in Marseille action plan</li> <li>○ Plan of Action 2004-2008</li> <li>○ Amended statutes</li> <li>○ GAM rules of procedure</li> <li>○ Draft by-laws</li> <li>○ Staff plan and internal organisation</li> <li>○ Staff regulation</li> </ul>
<b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final document regarding by-laws</li> <li>○ See report below</li> </ul>

### a. Executive Committee Meetings

*In between the GAM the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) is the policy making body of the EMHRN. The EC met in Istanbul, Florence, Belfast and Casablanca, and the EMHRN held a General Assembly meeting in Athens. It has since the GAM in Marseille been the policy of the EC to have three ordinary meetings each year, two of which are organised in the country that will have the upcoming Presidency of the EU and one which is taking place in a non-EU Mediterranean country.*

\* The first EMHRN EC meeting after the GA in Athens took place in Istanbul, 5-6 October 2002. Abdelaziz Bennani, Nazmi Gür, Bahey El Din Hassan, Kamel Jendoubi, Driss El Yazami, Sandrine Grenier, Marit Floe Joergensen and Marc Schade-Poulsen took part in the meeting that was organised with the kind assistance of EMHRN member, Human Rights Association (IHD) Turkey. The EC discussed the narrative and financial reports presented by the Secretariat and the reports from the working groups. It evaluated the GA and discussed the forthcoming Assembly setting the preliminary dates for 5-7 December 2003 in Malta. Furthermore, it adopted a program of activities for 2002-2003 identifying objectives for the period leading to the 6<sup>th</sup> GAM, agreed on a statement against the possible war on Iraq and on a policy paper on the reform of the Civil Forums. It also adopted the recommendations of the Feasibility Study on a EuroMed Human Rights Foundation regarding the role of the EMHRN in its establishment. Mr Adel Abdelatif (UNDP Good governance program for the Arab World) and Ms Seyhan Aydinilgil, Senior Policy and Partnership Advisor, UNDP Turkey, made presentations on the UNDP Arab Development Report and the UNDP Country Report for Turkey, respectively. Mr Salahetin Esmer, Secretary General of the IHD also took part in proceedings of the meeting.

\* An extra-ordinary meeting took place in Florence 14-16 March 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare the General Assembly (GA) and it dealt with amendments to statutes and by-laws, rules of procedures for the GA and internal staff regulations. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation was also discussed following a presentation by Danish lawyer, Eskil Trolle, who has worked on setting up statutes for the foundation. The EC also adopted a press statement on Iraq: 'No to War'.

\* The EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) met in Belfast 28-30 June 2003. The two main points of the agenda were the discussion of a first draft of a new EMHRN action plan and budget to be presented to the GA as well as a political debate on the Barcelona Process after the EU enlargement and the war against Iraq. Two expert consultants, Bernard Driano and Bechir Chourou animated the debate.

\* Finally, the EMHRN Executive Committee meeting was held in Morocco, 5-6 September 2003. The EC discussed the preparations of the forthcoming general assembly including an action plan for the coming years.

\* As at all regular EC meetings, members met with representatives of national authorities, NGOs, and representatives of local human rights institutions.

In Istanbul EC members met with representatives of human rights, migrant and political prisoner organisations. Kamel Jendoubi, Sandrine Grenier and Marit Floe Joergensen afterward went on a mission to Diyarbakir, where they met with human rights organisations, the Mayor of the Greater Diyarbakir District, political parties, the Bar Association, a migrant organisation, and journalists.

In Florence, the EC met with representatives of the Mediterranean Program of the European University Institute and the Belfast meeting included a meeting with David Irvine, PUP, and Colm Regan, Bahey El Din Hassan and Marc Schade-Poulsen met with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

Finally, in Morocco 4 September Abdelaziz Bennani, Kamel Jendoubi, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier met with the president of the human rights consultative council, Omar Azziman, the minister of human rights, Mr Aujjar, and EMHRN members OMDH, ADFM and Espace Associatif and other NGOs in Rabat, notably AMDH, Transparency and Forum Verité et Justice. The latter meeting was kindly hosted by Espace Associatif.

#### **b. The 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The General Assembly took place in Athens on 14-15 June 2002 with the kind assistance of the Greek Committee for Democratic Solidarity and the Greek Helsinki Monitor.

The minutes of the meeting, the meeting agenda, reports and papers discussed, as well as the list of participants are published in an extensive separate report: *Fifth General Assembly – Athens (Greece), 14-15 June 2002*. EMHRN, Copenhagen 2002. It is available on the EMHRN website as are all documents mentioned in this report.

### **3. COMMUNICATION**

**Newsletter, posters, web site and communication officer**

<b>Plan of Action. No mention</b>
<p><b>Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM</b></p> <p><b>General Objective</b> Raising strong awareness of and input to the human rights dimension of the Barcelona process</p> <p><b>Mid-term objective</b> Establishing the financial and organisational basis for a communication strategy vis-à-vis Media and members</p> <p><b>Achieved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site in the three working languages</li> <li>• Quarterly publication of Newsletter</li> <li>• Weekly publication of news-spots</li> <li>• Issuing of press releases on an irregular basis</li> <li>• Funds raised for an interim coordinator in charge of internal communication</li> </ul> <p><b>Not achieved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poster and folder proposal</li> <li>• Work program and time schedule for the reconstruction of web site and communication strategy</li> </ul>

\* The EMHRN issued three information letters and 50 weekly news bulletins by email. The latter were diffused to more than 800 key actors within the EuroMed human rights field each week. Its statements and press releases were regularly reported by the key EU press agency Agence Europe.

\* Furthermore, the EMHRN developed a project proposal to reconstruct its website and in July 2003 employed an interim coordinator in charge of internal communication.

#### 4. HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

*Since Marseille a main issue of the EMHRN has been to advocate for the EMP and the EU to establish strong human rights instruments in conformity with their international commitment, and to propose ways to decision makers on how to develop the human rights dimension of the Barcelona process. The EMHRN has worked to become a main interlocutor of the EU and the EMP when it comes to the question of human rights mechanisms in the EuroMed.*

<p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EMHRN will advocate that the EU should produce regular evaluations of the MEDA Programs' impact on the human rights situation in the region; use MEDA funds preferentially. The EMHRN will commission a report that will: Critically assess existing documentation regarding the use of the MEDA funds, including existing evaluation reports; Inquire into the existing use of (and programs for) MEDA funds devoted to civil society support; On the basis of the results of EMHRN advocacy in this field, it will examine the feasibility of establishing a similar initiative in relation to the European Investment Bank policies.</li> <li>- The EMHRN will advocate for the establishment of an independent human rights committee under the Committee of High Officials (the Barcelona Ambassadors) . In order to move this idea forward a comprehensive paper on the idea and structure will be elaborated. Before being launched, the paper will be discussed at a meeting with experts and members of the EMHRN</li> <li>- The EMHRN will advocate for the establishment of a human rights committee within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Inter-parliamentary Forum.</li> <li>- The EMHRN will continue past efforts of advocating for human rights to become an explicit point on the agenda of the Association Council meetings; Publish briefings/ reports on the occasion of association council meetings in cooperation with members; Urge the relevant Inter-parliamentary delegations of the European Parliament to promote human rights dialogue, and assessments of human rights progress or set-backs, in relation to association council meetings; Urge the European Parliament to organise human rights hearings in relation to accession procedures related to bi-lateral association agreements.</li> </ul>
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## **Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM**

### ***General objective***

The EMP becomes an efficient mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in the region. Human Rights becomes an explicit point on the agenda of the Association Council Meetings between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners. Bi-lateral Human Rights Working Groups are established with the framework of the Association Agreements. An independent expert group under the Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership advises on human rights policies, promotion and protection. MEDA and EIB Programs are monitored for their impact on human rights. A human rights committee is established within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum. Regular consultations with Civil Society are institutionalised. Human rights movement has fully integrated these concerns. Strong presence of human rights NGOs in the EMP.

### ***Mid-term objective***

EMHRN reports regularly to the Barcelona Ambassadors and an informal working group is established. Human rights addressed at all association council meetings. Possibility of establishing bi-lateral human rights working groups in Morocco explored. Inclusion of proposal for human rights committee in preparing Mediterranean assembly. The proposal of a pilot study on a human rights evaluation of the MEDA programmes as adopted by the EU Commission.

### ***Achievements***

- EMHRN co-organised EMP conference on Justice
- EMHRN presented its program for the High Officials of the Barcelona process
- EMHRN had regular dialogues with the EU Commission as a key civil society interlocutor
- EMHRN published and presented a report on MEDA that was widely discussed
- EMHRN recommendations on human rights action plans adopted by the Commission
- EMHRN recommendations on regular consultations with civil society is adopted by the Commission
- EMHRN has become a lead body in EuroMed civil society relations
- EMHRN recommendations are regularly integrated in EP resolutions
- Human rights issues about to be brought up regularly in Association Council meetings
- Regular consultations with civil society about to be established by the EU Commission
- EMHRN recommendations in relation to AA meetings regularly reported by Agence Europe
- EMHRN recommendations re MEDA adopted by EP.
- EMHRN recommendation on Working group in relation to AA about to be adopted
- Bi-lateral working group on human rights regarding Morocco is in the pipeline

### ***Not achieved***

- The establishment of an independent committee under the Committee of High Officials.
- The establishment of a human rights committee within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Inter-parliamentary Forum.
- Pilot study on a human rights evaluation of the MEDA programmes is not adopted by the EU Commission
- No initiative yet re the European Investment Bank
- Funding of Human rights NGOs within the EuroMed region remain weak.
- No strong backing of the EU Council regarding implementation of Commission proposals on human rights for the EuroMed region.

## **a. The Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona Process and EuroMesCo**

On 18 September 2002, the EMHRN, represented by Abdelaziz Bennani and Marc Schade-Poulsen, participated for the first time in a meeting of the Euro-Med Committee of the Barcelona Process. EMHRN president Mr. Bennani gave a presentation of EMHRN work and major human rights concerns and suggested more continuity in the dialogue between the High Officials and the EMHRN.

### ***EuroMesCo***

Earlier the same year, on 31 January to 1 February, 2002, the EMHRN (represented by Marc Schade-Poulsen) participated in the annual conference of the EuroMesCo (Euro-Mediterranean Network of Foreign Policy Institutes), established by the EMP under the first chapter and referring to the 'Barcelona ambassadors, and suggested the establishing a working group on human rights within the framework of the Euro-Med Committee of the Barcelona Process. Marc Schade-Poulsen also participated in the EuroMesCo Senior Officials' joint meeting in Copenhagen, 18 November 2002, which discussed 'Security in the Euro-Mediterranean region: Building a Comprehensive Concept,'

including the role of civil society in this context. The work of the EMHRN was among the issues highlighted at the meeting.

#### **b. The EU Commission**

As mentioned in the Athens GAM Activity Report the EMHRN initiated a study on the human rights implications of the MEDA funding programs with researchers Iain Byrne (then-research fellow at the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex), and Charles Shamas, (Senior Advisor, MATTIN Group Jerusalem). A draft report was presented at a training seminar organised by the EMHRN in Brussels, 7-9 November 2001, and thereafter redrafted according to the comments received and later developments within the EMP.

The report was published and released in English 22 October 2002, and in French on 13 November 2002 while the Arabic version was finalised in March 2003. A hard copy was distributed to participants at the conference on the MEDA programs mentioned above, and to a wide range of key actors in the Barcelona process as well as EMHRN members.

In parallel the EMHRN followed-up on the report in the EU institutions where it sparked debate. As a result, the EMHRN was invited by the European Commission to discuss the MEDA report on 3 February 2003. Around 15 representatives from the DG Relex and Europe Aid participated in the meeting. The Commission agreed to take into account the recommendations of the report in its work and to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations with the Network, in particular with regards to the development of a methodology for mainstreaming and initiating a pilot study. The EMHRN was represented by Abdelaziz Bennani, Kamel Jendoubi, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier. Iain Byrne and Charles Shamas also took part in the meeting.

The Communication on Human Rights in the Mediterranean Region adopted by the Commission on 21 May 2003 includes a large number of the recommendations by in the EMHRN. Also the European Commission Communication adopted on 11 March on 'the enlarged Europe – a new neighbourhood', which deals with the European Union's relations with its new Eastern neighbours and the Mediterranean countries, includes interesting points.

The EMHRN position on the Communications is outlined in a joint paper with the FIDH and the OMCT published on 19 September 2003.

\* On 3 February the EMHRN represented by Abdelaziz Bennani, Kamel Jendoubi, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier had a meeting with Ms Smadja, Director responsible for human rights at the DG Relex of the European Commission, to discuss the EIDHR programming as well as the MEDA report and mainstreaming of human rights.

#### *EIDHR*

\* The EMHRN, represented by Sandrine Grenier, participated in meetings on 22 February and 23 October 2002 between Human Rights NGOs in Brussels and the Human Rights Unit at EuropaAid in the European Commission to discuss the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). She also participated in a meeting with the Relex human rights unit on 11 December to discuss the EIDHR planning for 2003. During the whole year she also had regular informal meetings with both units to discuss among others the implementation and planning of the EIDHR. She also had meetings with other relevant Commission's officials.

\* The EMHRN, represented by Marc Schade-Poulsen, participated in two regional consultation conferences on the programming of EIDHR, organised by the European Commission in Amman, 10 -11 June 2002 and in Casablanca, 27-30 June 2002. The meetings gathered representatives of NGOs and governments from the Mashrek and Maghreb regions. The conferences included active participation of civil society including several members of the EMHRN and the recommendations from the Mashrek conference were in line with past recommendations of EMHRN and other NGOs.

On 14 July 2003, the European Commission organised a EU human rights forum, where representatives of the European institutions and NGOs discussed the EIDHR programming for 2004 and the following years. Commissioner Patten made an intervention followed by a short debate with NGOs. The group of human rights NGOs including the EMHRN had met twice before the meeting to prepare a common position, which was presented to the Commissioner

orally. EMHRN participants were: Bahey El Din Hassan, Naceur Kefi, Leila Rhiwi, Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

As a conclusion, the Commission declared that the observations expressed by NGOs during the Forum and comments by NGO forwarded before the month of October would be taken into consideration. The Commission also committed itself to organizing consultations on a regional basis to obtain a better harmonization between regional and country strategies and those of the EIDHR.

\* In general the EMHRN has welcomed the commitment to introduce micro-projects schemes to be managed by the EU delegations in the Partner countries. However, the EMHRN is concerned by the small number of Mediterranean countries selected as focus countries (only Israel, Gaza/West Bank, Algeria, Tunisia, and Turkey) and by the reduction of the funds available for these countries as well as for the Mediterranean in general. It has also expressed particular concern that Morocco was not considered a priority area.

#### **c. EU Human Rights Discussion Forum**

\* On 20-21 December the EU Human Rights Discussion Forum was held in Copenhagen. EMHRN members were Pierre Barge (LDH), Morten Kjaerum (DIHR), Margit Schmidt (Bruno Kreisky Forum), Panayote Dimitras (GHM), José Martin (Acsur), Iain Byrne (Essex), and staff: Marit Floe Joergensen, Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen, as well as associate members from international human rights organizations.

#### **d. Association Council Meetings**

In relation to the signing of the Association Agreements between the EU and Algeria and the EU and Lebanon, 23 April 2002, the EMHRN sponsored a press conference in Valencia on 22 April, 2002 of the families of disappeared in Algeria and Lebanon that was organised by EMHRN member, SOLIDA, as well as Le Collectif des Familles des Disparus en Algérie.

The EMHRN took pro-active part in human rights advocacy in relation to bilateral association agreements between the EU and Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. For these activities, please, see under countries below.

#### **e. The European Parliament**

On 10 September 2003, EMHRN Vice President Kamel Jendoubi (with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the FIDH) took part in a debate on the impact of 11th September on human rights, organized in the European Parliament by the human rights group of the 'Foreign Affairs Committee' (AFET). The EMHRN also had regular informal contacts with MEPs and EP administrators on various issues of relevance.

Earlier in 2003, the European Parliament was preparing a report on the MEDA programmes. The EMHRN was in contact with members of the European Parliament to work for a strengthening of the human rights considerations in report. On 3 June the European Parliament adopted the Pietrasanta report on the MEDA Programmes 2002, which contains many important paragraphs on human rights and women's rights, in line with the EMHRN recommendations. For other activities, please, see under themes and countries.

#### **f. The Euro-Mediterranean Interparliamentary Assembly**

In the preparation for a Euro-Mediterranean Inter-parliamentary Assembly, the EMHRN established informal contacts to advocate for the setting up of a sub-committee on human rights in the framework of the Assembly.

The EMPF working group on migrations convened in Brussels on 4 March. The EMHRN Trieste declaration on migration was distributed to the participants by the European Parliament Secretariat

#### **g. Other Initiatives**

\* In the course of the year, the EMHRN held several bilateral meetings with other NGOs and organisations based in Brussels, in particular human rights NGOs, in order to co-ordinate actions. Sandrine Grenier participated regularly in the EU NGO Human Rights Contact Group meetings as well as meetings of Human Rights and Conflict prevention NGOs. Sandrine Grenier also participated in the regular meetings of the group of Human Rights, Democracy and Conflict

Prevention NGOs that, among other things, prepares the meetings with the human rights units of the DG Relex and of EuropAid at the European Commission. In the spring this group of NGOs submitted a document to the Convention on the future of Europe. In addition, the EMHRN joined the human rights NGO Network in a statement with comments and recommendations sent to the Convention members on the first Treaty articles submitted to the Convention.

\* The EMHRN represented by Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen invited Brussels-based NGOs (AI, FIDH, OMCT, HRW) to a meeting on 7 April to present its work on the MEDA programmes and discuss the EU policy towards the Mediterranean and the Commission's new initiatives mentioned above. The following issues were discussed: the MEDA programmes, the European Commission's Communication on Wider Europe, the EU human rights policy in the Mediterranean in progress; mainstreaming of human rights and the reform process of the EuroMed civil forum.

\* The EMHRN represented by Colm Regan and Marc Schade-Pousen had meetings with the Irish Foreign Ministry 10-11 September 2002 to present the work of the EMHRN and explore possible ways of cooperation.

\* The EMHRN, represented by Marc Schade-Poulsen, gave a presentation at the conference: Mediterranean Security, Stability and Cooperation: An Issue for all of Europe, in Stockholm, Sweden, 19-20 September 2002. Marc Schade-Poulsen also met with Zahir Jamal, chief of the regional Programme Division of the UNDP at a meeting in Copenhagen, 2 December 2002 and he participated in a conference in Potsdam, Spring Dialogues 2003 of the Development and Peace Foundation on 'The Neighbourhood Policy of the Enlarged EU: Stability and Prosperity as Realistic Goals', Germany 10-12 April, 2003.

The EMHRN, represented by Marit Floe Jorgensen, gave several lectures at Malmoe Hogskola (university) in Sweden on human rights work in the Mediterranean region after 11 September.

## 5. CIVIL FORUM

*Since 1999 where the EMHRN took part in organising the first EuroMed Civil Forum meeting dealing systematically with human rights (Stuttgart 1999), Civil Forums have been an integral part of EMHRN work and an important part of its identity. Taking pro-active part in the Civil Forums has been a mean to promote and present human rights issues not only to civil society at large but also to the governments of the EMP and the EU institutions. Civil Forum work has also been a way to reach out to other parts of EuroMed civil society, and broaden alliances conforming with the EMHRN action plan, on questions relating to civil society participation in the Barcelona process, hereunder question related to freedom of assembly and speech.*

*However, in the past the EMHRN and a growing number of key actors have increasingly been dissatisfied with the methods of organising the Civil Forums and their lack of political impact on decision makers and civil society in general.*

### Action Plan

As soon as the dates and location of the 5th EMP Summit is known, the EMHRN will take contact to relevant partners and officials in order to ensure a strong human rights input at the meeting. Furthermore, it will work for the strengthening of direct encounters between civil society representatives and governments before, under and after the Summits.

### Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM

#### General objective

Civil Forum becomes a regular event based on democratic and participatory structures whose recommendations are actively fed into the Ministerial Meetings of the EMP and highlight key human rights as a priority.

#### Mid term objective

A structure of EuroMed Networks representative of independent civil society meet regularly in order to ensure follow-up with the aim of broadening 'critical' civil society participation in the Barcelona process.

#### Achievements

- Establishment of a Non-governmental Platform for the EuroMed Civil Forum with a human rights input and the EMHRN as the temporary secretariat.

#### Not achieved

- No regular meeting yet of formal EuroMed civil society structure

Cognizant of these issues, past and present organisers of the Civil Forums - networks, institutions, foundations and NGOs including the EMHRN - met in the margins, and after, the Valencia Civil Forum in April 2002 to discuss how to strengthen the Civil Forum format.

At the meetings it was agreed to ask the Commission to review the format of the Forums and to initiate informal dialogues on how to organise the meetings in a more constructive way and how to strengthen civil society participation in the Barcelona process.

Thereafter, and following several informal consultations in which Kamel Jendoubi, Driss El Yazami and Marc Schade-Poulsen represented the EMHRN the Network took the lead in organising a workshop on strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum, 29-30 November 2002 in Brussels.

About forty participants from organisations that had been involved in the previous civil forums took part. They endorsed the content of a concept paper on how to strengthen the sustainability of the civil forums and agreed that a core group consisting of four existing Euro-Mediterranean Networks (i.e. on human rights, on culture, environment and trade unions) would provide the temporary follow-up including a redrafting of the concept paper stressing an inclusive and bottom-up consultation process in the region. EMHRN regular and associate members present at the meeting were Mohammed Chafiq (Espace Associatif), Bahey El Din Hassan (EC, CIHRS), Kamel Jendoubi (EC, CRLDHT), Gaby Juen (Amnesty International - Brussels Office), José Martin (Acsur), Theocharis Papamargaris (GCIDS), Gregory Vallianatos (GHM), Reyhan Yalcindag (IHD), Driss El Yazami (EC, LDH, FIDH) and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

In follow-up to the workshop in Brussels on 29-30 November 2002, and in cooperation with the above mentioned networks, the EMHRN organised a second meeting on the structure and reform of the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum process, 31 January – 2 February 2003 in Brussels which gathered about 35 representatives from regional networks as well as key institutions involved in the Barcelona Process took part.

The participants discussed questions related to:

- Civil society and the evaluation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP)
- Common Concerns and Goals for Euro-Mediterranean Civil Society
- Themes, Priorities and Continuity of the Civil Forums
- Ensuring a participatory process and political impact of the Forums and its spill-over effects on Euro-Mediterranean civil society.

In conclusion of the meeting the participants adopted a Strategy Paper and agreed to establish a '*Non-Governmental Platform for the Euro-Med Civil Forum*' with the broad aim to 1. Discuss issues of common concern; 2. Define a policy agenda on this basis and 3. Advocate for the adoption of this agenda by the EMP governments including the strengthening of the participation of civil society in the decision-making processes of the EMP.

The participants established an ad hoc follow-up group and asked the EMHRN to ensure the temporary secretariat of this group. Members of the follow-up group are currently: Rania Laham (Mossawa Center); Ameer Makhoul (Ittijah) ; Driss El-Yazami (FIDH/EMHRN); Farid Yaker (ENDA), Ghislaine Glasson Deschaumes (Transeuropeens), Giovanna Tanzarella (Fondation René Seydoux), Hajo Lanz (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung); Jean-François Courbe (European Trade Union Confederation); Kamel Jendoubi (EMHRN); Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN); Mohammed Chafiq (Espace Associatif); Mourad Allal (Brussels and Marseille Civil Forums); and Patricia Jimenez (Heinrich Boell Stiftung).

The first task of the group was to contact the Greek and Italian presidencies as well as the European Commission to ask them to support the work of the Platform. Later the Follow-up group met in Paris on 6 April 2003 to discuss the preparation of the Chania Civil Forum 1-4 May 2003 and the Naples Civil Forum scheduled for November 2003. The Group agreed to forward letters to the Greek and Italian governments expressing its concern about the ongoing preparation of the Civil Forum and asking for support for the Platform.

Later, representatives of the Platform participated in the Civil Forum on the Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations in Chania 1-4 May 2003. During the Forum a meeting between representatives from the Platform, the Commission and the Laboratorio Mediterraneo, the Italian organiser nominated for the next Civil Forum in Naples, took place. It aimed at exploring possibilities for cooperation between the Platform and the Laboratorio in organising the Naples Civil Forum.

The Follow-up group evaluated the outcome in Paris on 5 June 2003 to discuss the outcome of the Platform participants' meeting with the Laboratorio Mediterraneo and published a statement on conditions for organizing an inclusive, transparent and participatory civil forum.

As an outcome representatives of the Platform met with the Italian organizers of the Civil Forum in Naples, former operators of Civil Forums and the European Commission, at a meeting in Brussels on 8 July 2003 and agreed to take part in a Steering Committee of the Civil Forum. The steering committee would have responsibility for all organizational aspects of the Naples Civil Forum, i.e. general organisation, setting up themes, participation/invitation criteria, budgetary aspects etc. while an Italian organizing committee (i.e. the Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo) would take care of all logistical, technical and administrative details to guarantee the smooth running of the Civil Forum.

Members of the Steering Committee are: Mourad Allal (Platform Coordinator), John Hontelez (European Environmental Bureau), Ameer Makhoul (Ittijah and Palestinian NGO Network), Abdelmaksoud Rachdi (Espace Associatif and Chouala), Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN), André Claret (IEMED), Gregory Vallianatos (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Andrea Amato (IMED), Michele Capasso (Laboratorio Mediterraneo), Wassila Tamzali (Maghreb Egalité 95), Souad Triki (AFTURD), while the representative of the EuroMed Trade Union Forum is Rachid Khedim.

The proposed subjects (which will be submitted to the national consultations) to be discussed in Naples were: sustainable development (including questions linked to employment), good governance and the reinforcement of civil society. Two horizontal themes would be the expansion of the European Union and the new policy towards neighbouring countries; and the situation in the region after the war in Iraq.

In preparation of the Civil Forum the Platform planned a series of national consultations under the responsibility of the steering committee to guarantee the maximum involvement of civil society in both the enlargement and formalisation of the Platform and in the Naples meetings.

At the time of finalising this report the Steering group had met once and agreed on the general program and criteria for participation in the Civil Forum, and the Platform had initiated a series of innovative consultation meetings with civil society in the EuroMed region. However, evaluating that guarantees for the proper organisation of the Civil Forum in Naples were unsure, the Platform decided to dissociate the Platform process from the organisation of the Naples meeting.

\* In parallel to the EuroMed Civil Forum process, the EMHRN has also followed the development of the Mediterranean Social Forum: The First Preparatory Assembly of the Mediterranean Social Forum was held in Morocco on 3-4 May 2003 with the participation of organisations from the Mediterranean countries, including José Martin, Accsur; Mourad Allal and Khémais Ksila on behalf of the EMHRN. The meeting discussed the structure and principles for the Mediterranean Social Forum. However, the outcome of the meeting and the way it was handled by the organisers were contested from several sides and the process awaits clarification.

The EMHRN was represented (by Mourad Allal) at the second international assembly in Naples, 4-6 July 2003. The number of participants was larger and more diverse than in Rabat: 150 participants, including first time participants, from Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey. On the agenda were the following points:

- Exchanges between networks on specific themes (women, culture, migration, environment, etc.)
- Meetings of working groups that were established in Rabat (programme, enlargement and communication, logistics and finances)
- Plenary sessions on general issues (evaluation of the EuroMed Partnership; WTO, etc.) from the report of the first Assembly and proposals from working groups.

- A demonstration in relation to the meeting of the EuroMed Ministers of Transportation

At the time of finalising this report the next meeting was scheduled to take place in Egypt.

\* The EMHRN has been pro-active in launching an Arab Civil Forum process linked to the Arab League: In early 2003, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the EMHRN and the FIDH received an important grant from the EU Commission to a project entitled 'Enhancing the Role of the Civil Society in Human Rights and Political Reform in the Arab Region'. The main objective of the project is to maximise civil society's contribution to democratisation, and political and legislative reforms on a regional Arab level. The proposed project is a part of a broader strategic enterprise that seeks to initiate a regional dynamic that addresses democratisation and revitalization of the Arab civil society. It includes a series of strategically timed meetings of civil society in relation to the Arab League Summits. EMHRN executive members, Bahey El Din Hassan, Kamel Jendoubi and Driss El Yazami, are members of the preparatory working group.

An important meeting in this context was the conference on the Arab Charter on Human Rights on June 10-12 2003 in Beirut, Lebanon, where EMHRN members Kamel Jendoubi, Aktham Naisse, Abdel Hussain Shaban, Raji Sourani, Abdelaziz Bennani, Amina Lemrini, Mokhtar Trifi, Wadih Al/Asmar, Khemais Ksila, took part as well as Essam Hassan and Ahmad Fathi Adel Hadi. The conference organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and 'Adl', in close coordination with the EMHRN and the FIDH, issued an important declaration that is available at the CIHRS and the EMHRN. A second important meeting took place in France on "The practical ways to reform the Religious discourse", a special consultant meeting arranged by Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) in cooperation with International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and EMHRN. The meeting issued a statement entitled "No new religious discourse without a full political reform".

\* Marc Schade-Poulsen on behalf of the EMHRN participated in a launching meeting of the Euro-Med Youth Platform in Malta on 17-21 September 2003. Apart from the formal part, the launching event included an information fair about organisations present, information about the Youth Platform and good practices in the Euro-Med Youth Programme. The Youth Platform is a EuroMed programme commissioned to the Maltese government and coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform in Malta.

## 6. DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENTS

### Action plan

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network will seek to promote that human rights dialogues are being established in as many areas as possible within the framework of the Barcelona process. In this regard, the EMHRN will assist whenever needed members of the network in creating dialogues at the national level; use the international dimension of the network to engage itself in dialogues with governments as a supplement or alternative to a uniquely domestic dialogue. Before the fifth general assembly, it will produce a paper evaluating the outcome of its initiatives in this regard in order to stimulate discussions on how to move forward in this field. Regarding the dialogue conducted by members of the network, it will elaborate a tool box with good examples and methodologies taking into consideration the different cultural and religious traditions and approaches to dialogues.

### Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM

#### *Dialogue with governments*

Should be incorporated under EMHRN country and thematic strategies.

## 7. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

*Prior to the GAM in Marseille EMHRN work on human rights defenders, freedom of association and expression focussed on establishing a EuroMed platform to deal with the question of freedom of association. In addition the EMHRN intervened on a number of occasions regarding individual and collective cases, and cooperated broadly with the national and international human rights organisations.*

*The EMHRN has not yet established regional work on freedom of association within the membership. However, the Network strengthened its work by broadening alliances on civil liberty issues through the Civil Forum reform work (see above) and by promoting the establishment of the EuroMed Human Rights Foundation.*

<p><b>a. Cooperation with international NGOs</b></p> <p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EMHRN will call major international human rights NGOs working in the region for an annual meeting in order to discuss how to improve coordination of activities, as well as priorities for work in the region. Furthermore, it will continue past practice of cooperating with international organizations and its members in sending missions to key trials, and with regard to urgent appeals.</li> <li>- The EMHRN will finalize a proposal for statutes of the Foundation before the 5th General assembly of the EMHRN, including the proposal that membership fees to the EMHRN are earmarked for the foundation.</li> <li>- The EMHRN will encourage member organisations and partners to run a seminar/ workshop with the aim of establishing a EuroMed network.</li> <li>- As a follow-up to the seminar in Casablanca on Freedom of Association, the EMHRN will call for a meeting of key participants in order to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the seminar.</li> <li>- The EMHRN will promote the idea of organizing a seminar on freedom of expression in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to establish a platform and working program in this field.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adopted at Istanbul EC meeting following the Athens GAM</b></p> <p><b>General objective</b> Compliance in theory and practice with ICCPR and the Human Rights Defenders' Declaration</p> <p><b>Mid-term objective</b> Raise the financial capacity of NGOs to take efficient local and regional action in order to promote civil liberties.</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A final proposal for the establishment of a EuroMed Human Rights Foundation</li> <li>• A Policy platform established for work on freedom of association</li> <li>• EMHRN consults regularly with international NGOs</li> <li>• EMHRN responds regularly to members when they are under attack</li> <li>• EMHRN monitors trials on an irregular basis</li> <li>• EMHRN addresses protection issues regarding defenders, freedom of expression and association on an irregular basis.</li> <li>• EMHRN has established broad alliances with other EuroMed networks on the question of civil liberties</li> </ul> <p><b>Not achieved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of human rights Foundation</li> <li>• Systematic work on freedom of association and expression and on trial monitoring</li> </ul>

### **The EuroMed Foundation for Human Rights Defenders**

In November 2001, the EMHRN finalised a proposal for a feasibility study on the establishment of a EuroMed Human Rights Foundation. The project was funded by DANIDA and implemented from May to July 2002 by two consultants, Jacob Gammelgaard (Rule of Law Consult) and Khémais Chammari (expert consultant and Individual member of the EMHRN), assisted by the EMHRN Secretariat.

The consultants met initially in Copenhagen 14 May 2002. Then at the GA, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation was discussed in one of the workshops and the consultants carried out interviews with EMHRN members. The consultants hereupon conducted field visits to selected countries in the region, and concluded with a meeting in Copenhagen 15 August 2002 with a DANIDA representative, Kamel Jendoubi and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

The feasibility study was finalised in October 2002 recommending the establishment of a Foundation. DANIDA approved the report in October 2002 considering that the consultants had fulfilled their assignment. In parallel the Executive Committee of the EMHRN validated the report at its meeting in Istanbul on 5-6 October 2002 and confirmed that it was ready to assume the task of establishing the Foundation. It appointed Kamel Jendoubi as the rapporteur in charge of following-up on the EC meeting with respect to the Foundation and preparing a plan of action and a timetable for the establishment of the Foundation. A timetable for establishing the foundation was drawn up and an expert in law of foundations and associations Mr Eskil Trolle (Bech-Bruun and Dragsted) agreed to draft the statutes of the Foundation awaiting detailed DANIDA response to the study.

The EMHRN, represented by Marc Schade-Poulsen, met with the Danish Foreign Ministry on 27 January 2003 to discuss the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation whereupon a proposal for statutes, mandate and principles for identifying the constituent assembly of the Foundation was agreed by the EC in Florence. Then at its meeting in Belfast, the EMHRN Executive Committee finalised a proposal for a mandate and statutes of a



Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation to be forwarded to EMHRN members for discussion and the Danish Foreign Ministry has accepted the project proposal and agreed to fund 1/3 of the foundation budget for the first year.

Since then, meetings have taken place to raise the necessary capital and identify members of the Foundation's board. ***The mandate and statutes of the Foundation are annexed to this report for discussion and approval at the Malta General Assembly.***

#### **b. Other initiatives**

\* Following the great demand for the Casablanca Declaration of October 2000 on Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, the EMHRN decided issue a reprint in June 2002.

\* On 18-21 September 2002 in Crete, the EMHRN represented by Marit Floe Joergensen participated in a retreat organised by the Orthodox Academy of Crete in cooperation with the Martin Ennals Foundation. The retreat gathered about forty representatives who assessed the consequences, challenges and new opportunities for human rights defenders after 11 September. The final document from the retreat is available from the EMHRN Secretariat.

\* Other actions in relation to freedom of association, freedom of expression and human rights defenders are reported below under country issues.

### **8. JUSTICE**

*At the EC meeting in Madrid 2001, the EC approved a proposal to establish a working group on Justice which subsequently met in Brussels on January 7, 2002<sup>1</sup>. The Brussels meeting it was decided to develop a concept paper to be presented at the General Assembly, to monitor the ongoing work of the EU under the Home and Justice Affairs, and to continue diffusion of the recommendations from the 2001 EuroMed Uppsala Conference on Access to Justice. It was also decided to prepare a survey report on justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region, which should be followed by a seminar. The concept paper was presented at the workshop on Justice at the GA in Athens while the report from the conference on 'Equal Access to Justice in the Euro-Mediterranean Region' was published a month earlier and distributed at the GA. Participants agreed on the priority of 'mapping' the situation of justice in the region to be followed-up by a regional seminar focussing on future actions (i.e. using the same format as the EMHRN work on women's rights).*

#### **Action Plan**

In order to set-off a dynamic in the field of Justice, the EMHRN will promote the idea among its members of strengthening efforts to monitor trials on a local level and of strengthening legal advise centers; Support increased dialogue between the North, South and East of the Mediterranean on how to work towards common standards in the region; It will collaborate with the Danish, Finnish and Swedish governments on the organization of a regional conference in April 2001 on equal access to justice in order to review progress in this field; reach an understanding of common standards and changes needed; discuss methodologies and mechanisms for the promotion of equal access to justice within the framework of the Barcelona process. The EMHRN will establish a working group to support the organizers of the conference and the follow-up committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Georges Assaf (Human Rights Institute, Beirut Bar Association) cancelled participation due to illness. Abdelaziz Bennani (EC); Ahmed Othmani (PRI), Caroline Stainier, (individual member); Mokhtar Trifi (LTDH); Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN; Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN.

#### **Adopted at Istanbul meeting following the Athens GAM**

##### ***General objective***

Governance according to rule of law principles; full independence of justice and people's equal access to justice. This includes the adoption of an action plan by the EMP for the promotion of an independent judiciary. Establishing of legal advice centres by human rights NGOs in all EuroMed countries. EuroMed Fair Trial Monitoring Network established.

##### ***Mid-term objective***

*Establishing and promoting a report on the Judiciary in the Mediterranean and an action plan for promoting rule of law within the EMP context.*

##### ***Achievements***

- Access to Justice Conference report published.
- Initial EMHRN Justice program adopted following Brussels WG meeting 2002 and Athens GAM
- Working group on Justice established
- Funding obtained for report and regional seminar
- Research project under way

##### ***Not achieved***

- Final Report and seminar on Justice
- Future action plan including for legal advice centres and trial monitoring network

In the course of autumn the EMHRN had meetings and regular contact with Swedish International Development Agency which resulted in financial support for its justice program.

An EMHRN working group on Justice convened on 9-10 May 2003 in Paris that was generously hosted by Penal Reform International. The priority of the meeting was to establish the main themes and the terms of reference for a report on the state of affairs of justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region aiming at assessing the relationship between the judiciary, access to justice and democracy and conditions for the emergence of independent judiciary in the Mediterranean. This assessment should serve the overall objective of the report, which is to strengthen and empower civil society at large to act in the area of justice and to make recommendations to the EMP on how to support this process. The outline of the report was agreed upon and will be focus on 6 points: 1. general perspective, 2. organisation of justice within the state, 3. the functioning of the judiciary including the status of magistrates, 4. fair trial and 5. access to justice. It was decided to launch the process of researching for the report immediately.

Following the recent harassments of judges and lawyers in Tunisia, the group also decided to send a letter of support to the president of the Tunisian Bar, as well as a letter expressing deep concern to the President of the Republic of Tunisia.

The participants of the Justice Working Group meeting were: Mr. Hassan Jabareen (Adalah); Mr. Ignazio Juan Patrone (MEDEL, Italy); Ms. Marie Anne Swartenbroekx, (MEDEL, Belgium); Ms. Jennifer Geen (Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales); Mr. Adel Abdelatif (UNDP Good Governance program for the Arab World); Abdelaziz Bennani (EMHRN); Mr. Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN Secretariat); Mr. Mostafa Bouchachi (Algerian Human Rights League); Mr. Georges Assaf (Human Rights Institute, Beirut Bar Association); Mr. Per Stadig, (ICJ Sweden and individual member of the EMHRN); Mr. Awad EL Mur (Counselor, Egypt); Ms Anna Bozzo (individual member of the EMHRN); M. Ahmed Othmani (Penal Reform International); Ms. Dalila Romdhane (Penal Reform International); Mr. Nejib Hosni (CNLT); Mr. Mohammed Mouaqit (Professor, Morocco); and Ms. Line Gamrath Rasmussen (EMHRN Secretariat).

Shortly after the meeting the EMHRN has commissioned two researchers, Professor Mohamed Mouaqit and Human Rights Legal Consultant Sian Lewis-Anthony, to do the report on the state of affairs of justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The research team met with Marc Scade-Poulsen in Copenhagen on 6 June 2003. On 3-4 July in Brussels 2003, in preparation for the report, Sian Lewis-Anthony and Sandrine Grenier met with several European institutions representatives dealing with political questions and EU programs on justice in the region.

Questionnaires are currently being sent out to a number of resource persons in the region to help the researchers in their analysis. George Assaf (Lebanon), Mustaphae Bouchachi (Algeria), Negad El Borai (Egypt), Rina Rosenberg (Israel) are among the resource persons contributing to the report.

It is intended that a meeting of the EMHRN working group on justice will be held in December to follow up on the questionnaires, give more input to the report and identify participants in a regional seminar in early 2004.

## 9. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

*Women's rights have recurrently been debated at the EMHRN General Assemblies and members have proposed to establish a working group on women's rights under the umbrella of the EMHRN. Others have felt that the main challenge lies in integrating women's rights issues into all human rights activities and to avoid confining them to a separate sphere. However, it has been agreed that the first step should be to identify priority issues, ongoing activities and existing networks and organisations working in the field of women's rights in the EuroMed region. In this sense it has been agreed that the EMHRN should identify the added value it could bring to ongoing work.*

### Action Plan

The EMHRN will base its future work on the outcome of the conference on Women's rights planned with the FIDH aiming to: Review the current state of violations of women's rights (institutional, social, and domestic); Assess government policies to diminish discriminations against women; Assess and review major initiatives by women in the region with the view to diminish discriminations against women; Assess the major problems facing women in migration and in asylum; Draw-up recommendations for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

### Adopted at the Istanbul meeting following the GAM in Athens

#### General objective

Ratification without reservations of the CEDAW by all EMP governments and adoption of action plans for promotion of equal right of women.

#### Mid-term objective

Establishing of specific EU budget lines for women's rights project and development of EuroMed networking. Mainstreaming of women rights issues into EMHRN action plan. Adherence of women rights groups to the EMHRN and increase in number of women in the EC.

#### Achieved

- Publication of report on women's rights
- Regional seminar on women's rights
- Launch of report and meeting of women's groups on follow-up
- Report recommendations included in European Parliament report
- Specific EIDHR funding of sub-regional women's rights networks
- HRE Summer School includes women's rights

#### Not achieved

- Action plan for follow-up to report

Subsequently, a project was designed to establish a report on the situation of women's rights in the region and on the role of the Barcelona process in this regard, and, on the basis of the report, to organise a seminar coinciding with the 5<sup>th</sup> EMHRN General Assembly. The project was implemented from early 2002 by a research team composed of Rabea Naciri (Morocco) and Isis Nusair (Palestine) with the support of the Heinrich Boell Foundation. Their preliminary report 'Women's Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: What Partnership?', identifying and mapping key problems and existing initiatives as well as listing recommendations for further promotion of women's rights within the Barcelona Process, was forwarded to participants of the one day women's rights seminar in Athens, 13 June 2002. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the report and thereby stir debate about how women's rights issues can be enhanced within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Women's rights experts and representatives of women's rights organisations and networks were invited as well as all EMHRN members.

The report was furthermore discussed at the EMHRN human rights education working group meeting in Malta, 25-27 October, 2002 and in Rome 21-23 February 2003 and suggestions made as how to use the report in human rights education. In follow-up an invitation to design the cover of the report as well as a poster was posted the Web Site in December.

With the title of "Integrating Women's Rights from the Middle East and North Africa Region into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" the report was finalised by the authors, incorporating the valuable comments from the seminar in Athens and the English version was launched on June 5 2003.

The report was presented at the European Parliament's Women's Committee on 10 June 2003. On 11 June the EMHRN organised a round table with EMHRN members specialised on women's rights in the MENA region, international organisations, resource persons, as well as representatives of the EU institutions. The aim of the round table was to discuss how the recommendations of the women's rights report can be implemented, in particular by the EU institutions, and how human and women's rights defenders, and the EMHRN, can strengthen work on women's rights within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Members of the Network present at the meeting were Rabea Naciri (ADFM), Alya Cherif Chammari (Maghreb Egalité 95), Jean Gallagher, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World; Driss EL-Yazamil (EMHRN/FIDH); Marit Floe Joergensen, Sandrine Grenier and Line Gamrath Rasmussen (all EMHRN secretariat).

The primary recommendation was to launch the report at sub regional meetings and to up-grade capacity building of members on the EMP mechanisms. The EMHRN is currently looking into the possibility of co-organising the suggested sub-regional meetings.

\* The EMHRN, represented by Sandrine Grenier, participated on 25 March 2003 in an informal meeting organised by the Heinrich Boell Foundation with representatives of the EU institutions on the implementation of the EU regional program on Enhancing the Role of Women in economic Life.

## 10. MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND HUMAN EXCHANGE

*EMHRN work on the issue of migrants, asylum seekers and human exchange has primarily been channelled into a conference project. Following the GAM workshop on migration and refugees in Marseille 2000, the EC gave its assent to organise a seminar in order to take stock of the work done and to see what role the EMHRN should play. The conference took place 18-19 January, 2002, in Trieste, under the High Patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and also in cooperation with the MEDA Institute in Trieste)<sup>2</sup>. The conference produced a report that is available on the EMHRN Web Site but did not succeed in bringing about necessary synergy for follow-up activities (see the GAM Athens activity report). However, the EMHRN continued efforts to up-grade activities in this field.*

### Action Plan

The EMHRN will organise a workshop with the participation of member organisations, experts and representatives of other relevant organisations with the mandate to out-line a program for; Monitoring the EU High Official Committee plan of action for Morocco in the field of migration; Gaining comprehensive knowledge of the situation of migrant and refugee protection in the South and East Mediterranean countries including the readmission agreements between the EU and its Mediterranean Partners; Discuss and identify needs for strengthened regional cooperation between human rights organisations, refugee organisations, migrant organisations and anti-racist organisations, in particular in relation to the question of undocumented migrants.

<sup>2</sup> EMHRN Members present were Ghassan Abdallah (PHRO), Mourad Allal (Forum of Mediterranean Citizens), Nabil Azouz (FTCR), Abdelaziz Bennani (EC), Said El Bikri (OMDH), Anna Bozzo (individual member), Nazmi Gür (EC, IHD), Christopher Hein ((CIR)), and a number of other CIR staff), Kamel Jendoubi (EC, CRLDHT), Angeliki Kotsantoni (GHM), Omar Mestiri (CNLT), Yousri Mustafa (CIHRS), Dominique Noguères (LDH), Eva Norstroem (EC; SRC), Theocharis Papamargaris (GCIDS), Philip Rudge (individual member), Samira Trad (individual member), Driss El Yazami (EC, LDH), Ali Zeidan (LLHR). Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN Secretariat).

### **Adopted by the EC in Istanbul**

#### ***General objective***

Full ratification and integration into legislation and practice by member states with Geneva Convention of 1954 and Protocol of 1967, and International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Active and comprehensive anti-discriminatory programmes implemented. Freedom of movement of people fully enhanced.

#### ***Mid-term objective***

Establishing of report and case studies on migrants' and refugee rights in the Mediterranean. Establishing a NGO working group in Brussels. Identifying correspondents in the region. Establishing of a coordinating EMHRN group/WG.

#### ***Achievements***

- The EMHRN organised a conference on strategy and methodology in Trieste, 2002
- Platform for work was established
- Missions to Israel and Spain accomplished

#### ***Not achieved***

- No WG established
- No systematic work is yet initiated

\* Based on the conclusions from the Trieste conference, a workshop on migrants and refugees convened at the GA. It discussed the establishment of a working group under EMHRN auspices on this issue as well as a report "mapping" the current situation of refugees and asylum seekers in the region (using the same format as the EMHRN report on women's rights). On the same occasion the EMHRN issued a press release expressing great concern about the frequent and grave rights violations of the thousands of (potential) asylum seekers or (un)documented migrants who live in Greece and are detained pending judicial or administrative deportation

The Athens Workshop was followed-up by a meeting on migration, refugees and asylum seekers with the participation of Driss El Yazami (EC, LDH), Eva Norstroem (EC, SRC), Theocharis Papamargaris (GCIDS), Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen (both EMHRN Secretariat), Copenhagen 29 August 2002. The group identified priority issues on the basis of the recommendations of the working group at the GA in Athens including the establishing a general report on migrant and refugee issues around the Mediterranean, country reports on specific cases, identifying correspondents in the Mediterranean countries and establishing a small group of NGOs in Brussels. Finally it discussed ways of ensuring the financing of the projects.

In follow-up Driss El Yazami (EC, LDH), Theocharis Papamargaris (GCIDS) and Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN), met with high officials of the newly established Greek Migration Policy Institute (MPI) in Athens on 19 December 2002 to explore possibilities for cooperation and exchange. The MPI proposed to cooperate on a structured basis once the Institute is operational. Since then internal difficulties within the Institute has hampered progress in this field.

\* On 13-17 July 2002 the EMHRN sent Smaïn Laacher (sociologist), on a mission of inquiry to Sevilla, Spain, to look into the social and legal situation of undocumented immigrants, who occupied a part of the Poble de Olavida University in Sevilla.

\* On 7-12 December 2002, the EMHRN in cooperation with the FIDH sent a mission of inquiry to Israel consisting of Mr Michael Ellman (lawyer, international board of FIDH) and Mr Smaïn Laacher. The mission gathered information on the Israeli government's policies on the trafficking of workers in Israel in order to determine whether the policies as well as the practice conform to Israel's obligations to the ILO and the relevant UN conventions and its commitment to international human rights standards in the Barcelona Declaration. The background to the mission was information that Israel is about to expel about 50 000 migrant workers from Israel.

The report from the joint FIDH-EMHRN mission of inquiry to Israel was published in August and September 2003 and entitled Migrant Workers in Israel: A contemporary Form of Slavery – a joint FIDH-EMHRN publication.

\* The EMHRN signed an appeal by NGOs supporting the universal ratification of the UN Convention on the protection of all migrant workers and members of their families.

## 11. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

*Human rights education (HRE) has been an item on each general assembly of the EMHRN and gave rise to the first working group within the EMHRN. HRE activities in the name of the EMHRN have subsequently primarily taken place within the framework of this group (HRE WG) in follow-up to the policies and recommendations adopted by the GAM.*

### Action plan

The EMHRN will build on the results of the Bray workshop on human rights education and pay attention to the need to train its members in human rights education to ensure the development of new generations of human rights defenders. In particular it will draft a EMHRN Declaration on Human Rights Education; take stock of current activities and approaches to HRE within the countries represented in the Network. Design and publish an annotated listing of human rights related Internet sites; develop an EMHRN site with effective HRE content for different groupings etc. Organise an annual or bi-annual Summer school. Commissioning a human right "primer" or "reader" of key documents and writings within human rights. Explore possibilities for the build-up of training programs in a Euro-Mediterranean context for new generations of human rights activists.

### Adopted by the EC in Istanbul

#### General objective

Human rights education promoted as an integral part of educational and human rights curricula, and agendas in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This includes appropriate education of new generations of human rights activists in human rights values and standards. Ensuring that human rights education is an integral part of programmes carried out within the context of the Barcelona process, in particular youth and school programmes, programmes aimed at law enforcing personnel and the judiciary, diplomats as well as journalists.

#### Mid-term objective

Establishing regular human rights Summer Schools; establishing an educational web site; continued production of EuroMed human rights readers; development of a policy paper for the EMP.

#### Achievements

- The holding of regular WG meetings
- Framework document established
- Translation of human rights reader into Arabic finalised;
- Front page of Educational web site constructed.
- Summer School on HRE successfully implemented
- Production of Photo Pack on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in the pipe-line
- HRE Concept paper published

#### Not Achieved

- HRE web site
- Publication of human rights reader

\* On 25-27 October 2002, the HRE WG working group on human rights education and training met in Malta, with the participation of Ruth Farrugia (Mediterranean Masters Program, Faculty of Law, University of Malta), Abdelmonim El Gak (CIHRS), Omar Grech (Academy of Diplomatic Study, University of Malta), Antonia Papadoupoulou (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Colm Regan (EC, (80:20 Ireland), Natasha Shawarib; (Sisterhood is Global, SIGI- Jordan), Antonio Stango, (Italian Helsinki Committee) and Marit Floe Joergensen (EMHRN Secretariat). It was decided to call for a competition to design an EMHRN poster/ cover for the women's rights report and to work on a resource pack on women's rights as well as photo packs on Sabra and Shatilla. The group endorsed the background paper on HRE, which subsequently was presented to the Executive Committee. The group also discussed the holding of the first EMHRN HRE summer school in September 2003 and the Human Rights Reader being prepared by Wa'el Kheir .

The next meeting of the HRE WG took place in Rome 21-23 February 2003 with the participation of Diego Bang (Danish Institute for Human Rights), Abdelbasset Ben Hassan (Arab Institute for Human Rights, Tunisia), Ruth Farrugia, Omar Grech, Lina Osseiran (Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon), Antonia Papadoupoulou, Colm Regan, Nadia Sebti (Centre for Documentation, Research and Information, Morocco), Natasha Shawarib, Antonio Stango and Marit Floe Jorgensen. Members of the group gave interviews to the Vatican Radio and participated in a public meeting on the EMHRN, its human rights education work and human rights work in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The group also met with Anna Bozzo, individual member of the EMHRN, and students at the university Roma III.

At the WG meeting, the group continued discussions of the Reader on Human Rights which was presented by the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon and the Summer School on human rights education. It furthermore had initial discussion on strategic planning for 2004-2008.

Work was continued in in Tunisia 16-18 May 2003 with the participation of Abdelbasset ben Hassan, Ruth Farrugia, Omar Grech, Lina Osseiran, Antonia Papadopolou, Theresia Pedersen (Danish Institute for Human Rights), Colm Regan, Natasha Shawarib, Antonio Stango and Marit Floe Jorgensen.

The group agreed on a timetable for the publication of the Reader on Human Rights, on the program and practicalities for the Summer School, and it made progress on the photo pack project on the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps. The group also discussed criteria for membership in the HRE WG; how to promote the women's rights report in educational work, and agreed on a final version of a background paper on HRE. The last day the WG attended a meeting at the Arab Institute for Human Rights on the integration of human rights into the school curricula.

Subsequently Theresia Pedersen, Natasha Shawarib, and Antonio Stango went to Lebanon 22-28 July to meet with representatives of the Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (PHRO) and other Palestinian groups working on the photo pack on Sabra and Shatilla. They also met with Ruwayda Hajj from the Lebanese branch of the Arab Institute of Human Rights, discussing the preparation of the EMHRN HRE Summer School, as well as with Zoya Ruhana from the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women, and Lina Osseiran Beydoun from the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon.

The first EMHRN first summer school on Human Rights Education took place in Lebanon 7-12 September 2003. 15 participants were selected mainly among the EMHRN members and explored different methodologies of working with human rights together with the WG members. Colm Regan and John Johnston, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World, Wa'il Kheir and Lina Oseiran Beydoun, Omar Grech; Abdelmonim Al-Gak, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Natasha Shawarib, Antonio Stango, Antonia Papadopolou, Joumana Merii from the Women's Democratic Gathering, Sama Aweidah, Women's Studies Centre, Palestine (and Aisha Network), and Marit Floe Jorgensen acted as facilitators.

The objectives of the Summer School were: to build capacity within the EMHRN in Human Rights Education; to share the work experiences and skills as well as expertise of Network members and partners; to explore and discuss the key theme of 'Cross Cultural Dialogue' and its implications for human rights education as well as to progress the human rights agenda of the Network and, in particular, the agenda of the Human Rights Education Group

The group were introduced to each other through artwork the first day. The second day the values of human rights were discussed and the participants were given the philosophical, historical, religious, and political background to human rights. Hereafter they examined the Universal Declaration and the covenants. The fourth day used women's right as a case study. The EMHRN's report on the integration of women's rights from the Middle East and North Africa into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was introduced. Hereafter participants worked on the CEDAW and women's political participation, before in the afternoon doing an art-workshop on the meaning of belonging. The fifth day the participants were divided into groups which visited the Council to resist Violence against Women; Pedagogic Research Centre (working on integrating HR in the curriculum of schools) and the Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (working on the photo pack). In the afternoon all went to the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla. The final day of the Summer school was devoted to feed back from the field visits, a presentation of the work of the EMHRN and evaluation of the Summer school.

A report from the Summer school will be prepared. At the time of finalising the Activity report the Concept paper on HRE and the Photo Pack from Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon were in print.

For other HRE education activities within the framework of the EMHRN, please see below under Algeria and Syria.

\* The EMHRN has regularly recommended to the Danish Centre for Human Rights that members of the Network attend the DCHR bi-annual training courses on human rights. Representatives of the Algerian League for the Defence of

Human Rights, the Committee for the Defence of Freedoms in Syria and the Palestinian Human Rights Organisation have attended the last courses.

## 12. SELF DETERMINATION AND THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

<p><b>Action plan</b> The EMHRN will promote discussion among its members in order to arrive at a strategy in this field and in order to identify how it can add value to ongoing initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Adopted by the EC in Istanbul</b>  <b>General Objective</b> End of occupation, implementation of the right to return, establishment of a democratic Palestinian state. This includes that the EU agrees on the Implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention principles and enforcing action for the protection of civilian population.  <b>Mid-term objective</b> Launch of series of events addressing European public and decision makers within the context of the Barcelona process.  <b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The holding of three working group meetings</li> <li>• Finalising of feasibility study on International Human Rights Tribunal on Palestine</li> <li>• Missions to Palestine-Israel on an irregular basis</li> <li>• Active participation in Brussels lobby</li> <li>• Employment of interim coordinator responsible for internal communication, in particular on Palestine</li> </ul> <b>Not Achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity of WG meetings</li> <li>• Regular action on Palestine</li> </ul> </p>

For activities, please, see under Palestine and Israel.

## 13. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

*In the field of economic and social rights the EMHRN has focused on raising awareness of the importance of a rights based approach to economic and social development within the Barcelona process and on developing capacities within its own membership, in academia and institutions about the interrelation and interdependency of human rights. A major achievement was a training seminar on the relation the human rights implications of the MEDA funding programs conducted in November 2001 and the report on the same issue (see above)*

<p><b>Action Plan</b> The EMHRN will run a training seminar for its members on the economic chapter of the Barcelona Declaration, on its ideological foundation, and on its relation to the human rights dimension of the Barcelona process.</p>
<p><b>Adopted by the EC in Istanbul</b>  <b>General objective</b> Economic, social and cultural rights are actively integrated into mainstream human rights promotion and protection. This includes that human rights mainstreaming is taken fully into account in the MEDA programmes, EIB programmes and other initiatives aimed at creating prosperity and development (including initiatives regarding the free trade zone).  <b>Mid-term objective</b> See under mechanisms.  <b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful training seminar and launch of report on the MEDA programs</li> <li>• Preparation of workshop on economic and social rights at the EUI Mediterranean Conference in April 2004</li> </ul> <b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic work in this field</li> </ul> </p>

The report on the Human Rights Implications of the MEDA Programmes was published and released in English 22 October 2002, and in French on 13 November, 2002 while the Arabic version was finalised in March 2003. The rest of the year the EMHRN followed-up on the report in the EU institutions where it sparked wide debate. As a result, the EMHRN was invited by the European Commission to discuss the MEDA report on 3 February 2003. Around 15 representatives from the DG Relex and Europe Aid participated in the meeting. The Commission agreed to take the



recommendations of the report into account in its work and to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations with the Network, in particular with regards to the development of a methodology for mainstreaming and initiating a pilot study. The EMHRN was represented by Abdelaziz Bennani, Kamel Jendoubi, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier. Iain Byrne and Charles Shamas, authors of the report, took also part in the meeting.

In parallel the EMHRN explored the possibility to organise a workshop on economic and social rights in the Mediterranean region in cooperation with the Mediterranean Program of the European University Institute in Florence on the occasion of its 5<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference of the European University in Florence, Spring 2004.

The purpose of the workshop would be to bring together eminent researchers on the relation between economic, social, political and civil rights and on the Mediterranean together with a group of human rights activists from the EMHRN member base to discuss methodologies and perspectives in this field, notably in order to build up capacities to deal with human rights when the EuroMed Free Trade Zone is installed. Adel Abdelatif, Coordinator of the UNDP Arab Good Governance Programme in Beirut, and Ivan Martin, Associate Professor at the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid agreed to work as scientific directors of the workshop in cooperation with the EMHRN.

A call for abstracts was launched in August 2003 on both the EUI and the EMHRN websites and at the time of finalising this report prospects for a good workshop were promising.

#### **14. HUMAN RIGHTS , THE WAR ON TERRORISM AND THE REHABILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY**

*In the aftermath of the 11<sup>th</sup> September events it proved important to raise the issue of the relation between fighting terrorism, human rights and international legitimacy. The question has proved to be decisive for human rights in the EuroMed region and it is an issue that crosses through EMHRN priorities. Despite the cross cutting nature of the question this report has chosen to high-light some activities in this separate chapter.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> GAM of the EMHRN in Athens was in itself a moment of high-lighting the question of human rights and terrorism and took place in follow-up to a symposium on *Human Rights and Terrorism*, organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in Cairo 27-28 January 2002 in partnership with the EMHRN and the FIDH (please see the GAM report).

Following the GAM in Athens the EMHRN, the CIHRS and the FIDH explored possibilities of following-up on the question. The EMHRN represented by Colm Regan had several meetings with international organisations in order to launch an international meeting on human rights in the aftermath of 11 September in London, December 2002, but the meeting was postponed awaiting sufficient human and financial resources.

\* On behalf of the EMHRN, Bennani participated in the 59th session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, April 2003, in order to advocate for a human rights approach to the Iraq war. He had meetings with representatives of international NGOs as well as representatives of the governmental delegations.

\* Finally, on 28-30 August 2003 the EMHRN co-organised a seminar on "The Human Rights Situation in Iraq and the Impact on Human Rights in the Euro-Med Region", with the CIHRS and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). The seminar took place in Copenhagen. EMHRN members present were: Ghassan Abdallah, Abdelaziz Bennani, Nazmi Gur, Bahey El-Din Hassan, Kamel Jendoubi, Morten Kjaerum, Hussain Shaban and Samira Trad.

#### **15. COUNTRIES**

*The EMHRN has worked extensively on country issues both in relation to members working on the ground and in bringing member concerns to the EU and EMP institutions. It has however not yet arrived at a clearly outlined strategy for each country. The following pages narrate activities and achievements*

## a. Algeria

<b>Action Plan</b> Algeria should be given special consideration
<b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for the holding of two Summer Schools in Kabylia.</li><li>• Sustained advocacy in Brussels on human rights issues in Algeria</li></ul> <b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No defined strategy.</li></ul>

*The EMHRN main inputs to human rights in Algeria have been taken place on three levels. In terms of advocacy it cooperated with the LADDH and the Organisation of the Family of Disappeared, independent lawyers and the Brussels based international human rights organisations in activating the human rights article of the Association Agreements. In terms of capacity building the EMHRN supported the holding of a LADDH run Summer School on human rights. In terms of monitoring it followed and published human rights concerns expressed by national and international human rights organisations.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* On 22 May 2002, the EMHRN issued a press release following the arrest on 19 May 2002 of Abderrahmane Khellil, member of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH).

\* On 27 May 2002 the EMHRN and FIDH also sent a letter to the European Parliament concerning the human rights situation in Algeria in relation to the Assent procedure regarding the EU-Algeria Association Agreement.

\* On 3 June 2002 the EMHRN sent a joint letter with FIDH to the EU troika on the occasion of its meeting with the Algerian government.

\* On 10 July 2002, EMHRN in cooperation with FIDH supported the visit of a delegation of human rights defenders in Brussels and Strasbourg to meet with Parliamentarians including a public hearing with Nassera Dutour, le Collectif des Familles des Disparus en Algérie, Abderahmane Khellil and Yahia Assam, League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH) and Driss El Yazami (EMHRN EC, LDH; FIDH).

\* EMHRN supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> LADDH summer school course on human rights in Algeria, which took place in Kabilya in August. Khémais Ksila from the LTDH participated as speaker on behalf of the EMHRN and reported to the EMHRN on the Summer School.

\* During Autumn the EMHRN continued actions towards the EU Parliament with Algerian as well as international human rights organisations on the EU-Algeria Association Agreement. In cooperation with AI, FIDH, and HRW, it sent another letter to the European Parliament in view of the vote on the Agreement, 30 September 2002. The same organisations later forwarded a last minute appeal to the Parliament recalling the need for human rights safeguards.

\* During Summer and Autumn 2003 the EMHRN in cooperation with CIPA (member of the EMHRN) arrived at an agreement on the support of a member initiative that should lead to a major event in 2004 documenting gross human rights violations in Algeria.

## b. Egypt

<b>Action plan</b> No mention
<b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missions and meetings on an irregular basis</li></ul> <b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No explicit strategy</li></ul>

*The EMHRN has monitored the human rights situation in Egypt on the basis of reports from national and international NGOs with a particular focus on the Law on Association and the clamp-down of the Egyptian authorities on key civil society representatives and organisations.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* On 3 June 2002, the EMHRN issued a press release concerning the threat to freedom of association by the adoption by the Egyptian parliament of a new bill on non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

\* On 26-27 July 2002, the EMHRN co-organised a workshop on the freedom of association and the Egyptian law on association with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) on the occasion of EOHR's annual intellectual forum. Among the EMHRN members present at the meeting were Abdelhussain Shaaban (Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK), Ghayath and Aktham Naisse (CDF-Syria), Khader Shkirat (LAW), Raji Sourani (PCHR) and Abdallah El Walladi (OMDH).

\* EMHRN issued a press release following the confirmation by the court of cassation of the conviction of Saad Eddin Ibrahim to seven years imprisonment with hard labour, 30 July 2003.

\* On 19 September the EMHRN represented by Abdelaziz Bennani (President) and Sandrine Grenier met with the Egyptian Ambassador to the EU in Brussels in order to discuss human rights in Egypt and the EMP.

\* On 2 April 2003 The EMHRN issued a press release on the clamp down on the anti-war demonstrators in Egypt.

\* On 13 June 2003 the EMHRN issued a press release on the Egyptian government's use of the new law to restrict the formation of human rights organizations.

## c. Israel

<b>Action plan</b> No mention
<b>Achievement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missions and reporting on an irregular basis</li><li>• Proactive participation in Brussels advocacy group</li><li>• Monitoring of the Association Council meetings between Israel and the EU</li></ul> <b>Not Achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No explicit strategy</li></ul>

*EMHRN activities in relation to Israel have been closely linked with the question of the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and with the connected situation of the Arab Palestinian minority in Israel.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* The EMHRN supported the participation of members and speakers at a Seminar on 20 June in the European Parliament concerning 'EU-Israel bilateral relations in the framework of International and European Law: The case of the

EU-Israel Association Agreement' (Souhad Bishara (Adalah), M Faraj Abdallah (PHRO), José Martin (Acsur), Theocharis Papamargaris (GCIDS), Mohamed Zeidan (AAHR), Ghada Zeidan (LAW). Also, EMHRN members Khader Skhirat (EC) and Hamdi Shaqqura (PCHR) gave a presentation at this seminar). This hearing was organised by several NGOs including the EMHRN under the coordination of Aprodev and hosted by Parliamentarians from the Parliament's six main political groups. It was an opportunity to exchange views with representatives from the EU Institutions and additional meetings took place the days before and after with representatives from the European Commission, Council and European Parliament.

\* On 21 August 2002 EMHRN and eight other human rights organisations sent an open letter to the Israeli authorities expressing their concern about the investigation of Adalah urging Israel to ensure that any investigation be conducted transparently, in conformity with the relevant laws in Israel and that Adalah and all other human rights organizations, are allowed to exercise their rights without hindrance.

\* The EMHRN together with FIDH and OMCT sent a letter to the EU foreign ministers and the EU commission in relation to the EU-Israel Association Council on 21 October 2002.

\* In general, the EMHRN participated in several regular co-ordination meetings in Brussels with other international and European human rights and development NGOs working on Palestine/Israel towards the implementation by the EU institutions of the human rights clause of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. These organisations included Aprodev, Association for Peace (AP), Pax Christi, Lawyers without Borders (ASF), International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE), the FIDH, the OMCT, the European Coordinating Committee on NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ECCP), the Platform of French NGOs for Palestine and Solidar.

Together with these NGOs under the coordination of Aprodev organised an information and lobbying visit of organisations working on the Arab's minority rights in Israel on 25-28 November 2003 in Brussels. The organizations were members of the EMHRN, the Arab Association for Human Rights and Adalah, and also Ittijah, Mosawa, Sikkuy, the Regional Council of Unrecognised Villages in the Negev, and Women against Violence. Meetings were organised with representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of EU as well as representatives of the Belgian government and parliament. Driss El Yazami gave a presentation on this occasion on behalf of the EMHRN and the FIDH.

#### d. Jordan

<b>Action plan</b>
No mention
<b>Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports on the press freedom</li> <li>• Meetings on an irregular basis with government representatives</li> <li>• Monitoring of meetings of the Association Council between the EU and Jordan</li> </ul>
<b>Not achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*Since the AGM in Marseille the main bulk of EMHRN work on Jordan focussed on the question of press freedoms resulting in the publication of a substantive report in May 2002. In follow-up to the report and to the dialogue meetings with representatives of the Jordanian government, the EMHRN monitored the development of the association agreement between the EU and Jordan.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* The EMHRN issued a press release following the conviction of journalist and former Jordanian Parliament member, Toujan al-Faisal on 16 May 2002.

\* On 3 February 2003 the EMHRN, represented by Abdelaziz Bennani and Sandrine Grenier, met representatives of the Jordanian mission to the EU. The setting up of a national human rights institution for human rights, the MEDA programs, and freedom of the press and freedom of expression as well as women's rights were discussed.

\* The EMHRN prepared a statement on human rights for the EU-Jordan Association Council that was scheduled for 22 July 2003. However, the meeting was postponed to 14 October 2003. At the time of writing the statement was in the process of being up-dated.

e. Lebanon

<b>Action Plan</b>
No mention
<b>Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEDA support for civil society</li> <li>• Missions of inquiry on refugee situation</li> <li>• Mission to the UNHCR in Geneva on the question of non-Palestinian refugees</li> <li>• Facilitation of capacity building for the ACSRA and the PHRO</li> <li>• Strong human rights element in EP resolution on Association Agreement between the EU and Lebanon</li> </ul>
<b>Not achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*The EMHRN has in the past monitored the human rights situation in Lebanon by holding and attending a number of meetings in the country and by organising missions on the situation of the Palestinian and non-Palestinian refugees (please see past activity reports). In the months following the Athens GAM main efforts were invested to follow-up on the Association Agreement signed by Lebanon and the EU in April 2002.*

*As a result of EMHRN and members' joint efforts in cooperation with international NGOs the EP on 16 January 2003 adopted a political resolution on the Association agreement in which views of human rights NGOs were largely taken into account including the setting aside MEDA funds for human rights, monitoring the human rights in the country and taking view points of civil society into consideration, concern for freedom of expression, the disappeared and the Palestinian and non-Palestinian refugees.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* On 12 September 2002 the EMHRN issued a press release following the closure of the Al-Murr television endangering freedom of expression in Lebanon.

\* On 24 October 2002 the EMHRN in cooperation with the OMCT, FIDH, HRW sent an open letter to the European parliament in relation to the discussions in the European Parliament concerning the Association Agreement between the European Union and Lebanon. It then had several contacts with MEPs and the Commission as follow up.

\* On 3-8 November the EMHRN assisted, together with the FIDH, in organising meetings for a Lebanese delegation visiting Brussels. The delegation consisted of representatives of Lebanese human rights organizations: EMHRN members were Kristel Halter (PHRO), Wadih Ange Al Asmar (SOLIDA) Charles Chartouni (FHHL); also ALDHOM was represented by Alice Keyrouz. They had various meetings in the European Parliament, and with the Council and the Commission, sharing their concerns on the human rights situation in Lebanon. They also participated in a public hearing at the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on 5 November in which Driss El Yazami (EC, LDH, FIDH) also gave a presentation.

The EP gave its assent to the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement on 16 January 2003 and adopted at the same time a political resolution on the Association agreement. As mentioned above the views of NGOs were largely been taken into

account. Thus in January 2003 the European Commission decided to unblock one million Euros for a MEDA program in Lebanon which includes a human rights component. The Commissioner for External Relations, Mr. Patten, went to Lebanon in the beginning of February and raised some human rights issues as well as the question of the rights of the Palestinians refugees with the Lebanese authorities.

\* A European Parliament delegation went to Lebanon on 11-15 June 2003 and met with EMHRN members.

\* In July 2003, Faraj Abdallah, PHRO, had a number of meetings with representatives of the European Commission in Brussels. He also discussed with EMHRN representatives about the possibility of organising a mission of European Parliament Members on Human Rights, and in particular, on Palestinian and non-Palestinian refugees in the beginning of next year in Lebanon.

\* Samira Trad, individual member of the EMHRN, and executive director of the Frontier Centre, Lebanon, was arrested by the Lebanese authorities on 10 September and held in custody for 30 hours. She was first charged with "acting through a non-declared association", and "harming the reputation of Lebanon", however, after her release, only the second charge was upheld, based allegedly on results from a study on Iraqi refugees. The EMHRN issues press releases and EMHRN members at the HRE Summer School Colm Regan, Omar Grech and Marit Floe Joergensen visited the jail in which Ms Trad was detained. Ms Trad had previously been on a trip to Denmark, Norway and Sweden organized by the EMHRN in order to present the work of the Frontier Centre for NGOs and government authorities.

#### f. Libya

<b>Action plan</b>
No mention
<b>Achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy support in Brussels</li> </ul>
<b>Not achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*Libya is not a partner to the EMP and is at present one of the most difficult countries in which to work on human rights.*

The Libyan League for Human Rights has since the GAM in Marseille been regular member of the EMHRN and EMHRN has since Marseille worked to organize a first public event on human rights in Libya. This work was to some degree hampered by the focus on 11<sup>th</sup> September. However, on 8 October 2002 in cooperation with the FIDH, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International EMHRN members Kamel Jendoubi (EC; CRLDHT), Driss El Yazami (EC; LDH; FIDH) and Sandrine Grenier were involved in the preparations of a public hearing on the human rights situation in Libya that was held at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on 8 October. Representatives of the Libyan League for Human Rights (Mansour Kikhia, M. Hadi Shalluf and Ali Zeidan) gave presentations in addition to Amnesty International and Driss El Yazami. The hearing was followed by a debate with members of the EU parliament.

#### g. Morocco

<b>Action plan</b>
Establishment of a working group under the Association Agreement between the EU and Morocco.
<b>Achievement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications memorandums and statements on the human rights situation</li> <li>• Bi-lateral working group on human rights under the Association Agreement with the EU agreed by Morocco and the EU</li> </ul>
<b>Not Achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*The EMHRN cooperated with Democratic Association of Moroccan Women, OMDH and Espace Associatif in promoting the results of the EuroMed Seminar on Freedom of Association in Casablanca, October 2000. The EMHRN also took part in the general monitoring of the human rights situation with organisations like the Avocats sans Frontières, the FIDH,*

*OMCT, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and issued several press releases concerning specific key cases in Morocco. The EMHRN forwarded statements on the occasion of the association council meetings and actively promoted the idea of creating human rights working groups and actions plans under this umbrella. Finally, the EMHRN took active part in advocating for the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights to reconsider decision not to prioritise human rights project in Morocco. The EMHRN also advocated for the establishment of a working group on human rights under the Association agreement with the EU.*

Specific actions after the Athens GAM were:

\* On 12 December 2002 the EMHRN issued a joint statement with Amnesty International, Avocats sans frontières, Belgium; Human Rights Watch, and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH and OMCT); regarding the detention of Captain Mustapha Adib in Morocco.

\* The EMHRN represented by Sandrine Grenier participated in a Moroccan TV programme (on M2) in December 2002 about the recent development regarding the human rights situation in Morocco and the implementation of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement.

\* On 24 February 2003 the EMHRN in consultation with its members in Morocco, the ADFM, Espace Associatif and OMDH sent an open letter in relation to the EU-Morocco Association Council, in which it was recalled that human rights are an essential element of the Agreement and that a human rights sub-group could be created in the future.

\* On 22 May 2003, the EMHRN issued a press release on the imprisonment of the Moroccan journalist, Lamrabet.

\* On 4 September 2003, and in connection with the Executive Committee in Morocco, 5-6 September 2003, Abdelaziz Bennani, Kamel Jendoubi, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier of the Executive Committee met with Mr Aujjar, Minister of Human Rights, and Mr Azzoiman, President of the Human Rights Consultative Council, and raised concern about the set-back in the human rights field in particular following the terrorist attacks in Casablanca on 16 May 2003. The EMHRN representative also had a meeting with members, ADFM, Espace Associatif and OMDH, as well as representatives of the AMDH, Vérité et Justice and Transparencey Morocco, during which the human rights situation in Morocco was raised including strengthened cooperation in relation to the EU institutions. Finally, the EMHRN representatives met with the EU Delegation.

## **h. Palestine**

Objectives are outlined under thematic priorities on self-determination and the right of refugees:

<p><b>Action plan</b> The EMHRN will promote discussion among its members in order to arrive at a strategy in this field and in order to identify how it can make a difference compared to ongoing initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Adopted by the EC in Istanbul</b>  <b>General Objective</b>  End of occupation, implementation of the right to return, establishment of a democratic Palestinian state. This includes that the EU agrees on the Implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention principles and enforcing action for the protection of civilian population.  <b>Mid-term objective</b>  Launch of series of events addressing European public and decision makers within the context of the Barcelona process.  <b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The holding of three working group meetings</li> <li>• Finalising of feasibility study on International Human Rights Tribunal on Palestine</li> <li>• Missions to Palestine-Israel on an irregular basis</li> <li>• Active participation in Brussels lobby</li> <li>• Employment of interim coordinator responsible for internal communication, in particular on Palestine</li> </ul> <b>Not Achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity of WG meetings</li> </ul> </p>

*The EMHRN has since the GAM in Marseille that took place shortly after the start of the Al Aqsa Intifada sought to create more concerted effort of EuroMed human rights NGOs with the main aim of ending occupation, promoting respect for the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention and bringing the EU and EMP institutions to adopt a more pro-active human rights approach.*

*Shortly after the Al Aqsa intifada the EMHRN sent a mission to Palestine and after the Marseille GAM it convened a meeting in Brussels with Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and European NGOs. Following a decision by the EC to establish a working group on Palestine, the EMHRN organised the first formal meeting with its Israeli and Palestinian members, as well as European members and international partners in Geneva, December 2-3, 2001. The aim was to strengthen focus, develop synergies and improve co-ordination of actions and the meeting led to a follow-up in Geneva 23-24 March, 2002, where the participants<sup>3</sup> discussed and agreed on a concept paper; discussed the issue of missions, monitoring; networking; strengthening the impact of WG meetings; planning and time-lines; and a message to be forwarded to the EuroMed governments. The concept paper was presented to the workshop on Palestine at the GA, and was adopted with few modifications and it was again suggested to employ a coordinator on Palestine. To follow-up on the meeting, the EMHRN undertook substantial efforts to raise funds for a full-time coordinator to the group.*

Subsequently the EMHRN launched a vacancy in July to which 42 candidates responded before the deadline on 1 September 2002. Five candidates were selected for job interviews on 16 October conducted by Kamel Jendoubi and Marc Schade-Poulsen. A report from the interviews with recommendations were forwarded to the EC and further consultations conducted with EMHRN members in the region. However, no candidate gained unanimous support and therefore decisions about how to proceed with the working group were postponed to the first EC meeting in year 2003.

In the meantime Khader Shkirat resigned as Director of LAW in August 2002 and ceased effectively active participation in EC work until his resigning from the EC on 9 April 2003.

In the light of the lack of progress of the WG and the case of LAW, the EC decided to convene for a small meeting with EMHRN members to discuss how to move the EMHRN agenda forward on Palestine. Per Stadig, ICJ-Sweden, Bahey El-Din Hassan (CIHRS/EC); Driss El-Yazami (LDH/FIDH/EC); Stefan Luetgenau (Bruno Kreisky Foundation); Diane Luping (LAW); Eva Norstroem (Swedish Refugee Council/ EC), Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sarah Han (EMHRN Secretariat) participated in the meeting. The group proposed to send a mission to Palestine to inquire into the working conditions of civil society, to contribute to the drafting of a human rights road map to peace and to revive the working group on Palestine.

In follow-up to the meeting, the EMHRN employed Marita Roos for an interim period in charge, amongst other, to promote internal EMHRN communication regarding the Palestine question. Marita Roos started her assignment in early July 2003, and organised a EMHRN mission to Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza (15-22 July 2003) composed of herself, Stefan Lütgenau, Bruno Kreisky Foundation and executive director Marc Schade-Poulsen. The aim of the mission was to inquire into the working conditions of civil society after the outbreak of the al-Aqsa Intifada, particularly emphasising the work of the human rights NGOs.

<sup>3</sup> Stefan Luetgenau (Bruno Kreisky Foundation) ; Giovanna Lellii (Aprodev) ; Hannah Friedman (Public Committee Against Torture (absent)) ; Eva Norstroem (EC Swedish Refugee Council); Per Stadig, (individual member), Ron Dudai, (B'Tselem) ; Khader Shkirat (EC, LAW) ; Mohammed Zeidan (Arab Association for Human Rights) ; Hassan Jabareen (Adalah) ; Bahey El Din Hassan (CIHRS); Ghassan Abdallah (Palestinian Human Rights Organisation); Mireille Mendez France (International Association of Democratic Lawyers) ; Charles Shamas (Mattin Group); Vicki Metcalfe / Jaaber, (PCHR); Randa Siniora (Al Haq) ; Salpy Eskidjan (World Council of Churches) ; Alexandros Karides (World Council of Churches) ; Ghada Zeidan (LAW) ; Liz Hodgkin (Amnesty International) ; Nathalie Mivelaz (OMCT) ; Hanny Megally, (Human Rights Watch) ; Dianne Luping (LAW), Marit Floe Jorgensen, Sandrine Grenier and Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN Secretariat).



The mission met with EMHRN members: Hassan Jabareen, Adalah; Jessica Montell; B'Tselem; Mohammed Zeidan, Arab Association for Human Rights; Ja'bar Wishah, Hamdi Shaqqura and Victoria Metcalf, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Gaza); Hannah Friedman, Orah Maggen, Gabi Lasky, Yuval Ginbar, Ze'ev Zamir and Badawi Qawasmi, Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; and a representative of LAW, Jihad Sarhan. Apart from meeting with EMHRN members the mission had several meetings with non-member Palestinian NGOs as well as governmental donors. A report from the mission is forthcoming.

\* In parallel to the above mentioned activities, and following the Marseille and Athens GAM recommendations, the EMHRN initiated dialogue with the Plum Foundation to establish a feasibility study for an International Tribunal on the Situation in Palestine. The project was implemented in autumn 2002 by Lawyer Angela Gaff and included several missions to Israel, Palestine and Brussels. The study was published in June 2003 in English and Arabic. The report argues that Palestinian and Israeli civil society groups need more information about the opportunities offered by a Tribunal in order to give them ownership of such an initiative. It also argues that there is little evidence as to the impact of past 'civilian tribunals'. The report was well received by a number of commentators but it did not indicate feasibility and relevance of organising a Tribunal.

Other EMHRN activities on human rights in Palestine after the Athens GAM were:

\* The EMHRN co-organised a preparatory course for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme to Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) from 11-19 August in Denmark and 19-26 August in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Danish Centre for Human Rights and Dan Church Aid, and under the auspices of World Council for Churches. The course was intended for medical students going to the West Bank for six months to assist the local staff at DCA health projects and to observe the situation at check points. Representatives of B'Tselem and LAW and of the EMHRN Secretariat assisted in the course that focussed on practical training on monitoring human rights violations.

\* In cooperation with DanChurch Aid, the EMHRN supported a visit to Denmark by Ya'el Stein, research director of B'Tselem, 24-28 August 2002, and organised a hearing in the Danish parliament on the EU's Mediterranean policy, especially with regard to Israel with the participation also of Marc Schade-Poulsen.

\* In June 2002 the EMHRN supported 'Convergence Palestine / Israel' a joint project by Transeuropéennes, FIDH and LDH consisting of a series of dialogue meetings in Paris with Israeli and Palestinian participants.

\* The EMHRN organised a trip to the Scandinavian capitals and Holland 28 October to 1 November 2002 for Mr Ghassan Abdallah, director of the Palestinian Organisation for Human Rights (PHRO) in Lebanon. Mr Abdallah had meetings with relevant persons in the foreign ministries, development aid agencies, refugee organisations as well as other human rights organisations. The EMHRN also supported Faraj Abdallah's from the PHRO coming to Brussels in September to have several meetings with the European Institutions.

\* The EMHRN assisted in coordinating meetings for an Israeli-Palestinian delegation of women, who visited Denmark, 12-14 November 2002. This was part of their trip to several European capitals to lobby for a project on 'Women at the Negotiating Table: Contribution of Women to the Peace Process in the Middle East', organised by the Heinrich Boell Foundation. The delegation met with representatives of the Danish Foreign Ministry, members of parliament, journalists, and women's rights organisations.

\* The EMHRN participated in hosted network meetings of Danish NGOs working on Palestine and Israel on 24 October 2002, 22 January 2003, 8 May 2003, and 4 September 2003

\* The EMHRN represented by Sandrine Grenier participated in several regular meetings in Brussels with NGOs working on Israel and Palestine. The group of NGOs have been asking for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement due to the grave human rights violations committed by Israel.

\* The EMHRN issued a joint press release with other human rights organisation on the harassment of monitors in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 26 May 2003.

## i. Syria

<b>Action Plan</b> Syria should be given special consideration
<b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular cooperation with the CDF in support for human rights activities.</li> </ul> <b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*Syria has since the Amman 2000 meeting of the Executive Committee been defined as one of three countries in the EMP where the working conditions of civil society is particular difficult (Algeria and Tunisia being the two others, and Libya a fourth country remaining outside the EMP). Syria is a specific case in the EMP context as it is the only one that did not conclude an association agreement with the EU.*

The EMHRN, the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Syria and other EMHRN members, in particular the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, have cooperated to strengthen human rights based civil society work in Syria. The process has been initiated through several EMHRN mission to Syria and EMHRN as well as CIHRS meetings and consultations with CDF. The outcome has resulted in regular contacts between the EMHRN offices and the CDF, the regular publication of human rights review, Al Sawt, regular releases of statements on human rights in Syria and human rights training courses for Syrian human rights defenders implemented by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. The first took place in Cairo on 10 to 17 October 2002. The second was at the time of writing this report planned to take in October in Cairo, in addition to a special course for CDF board members and a CDF general assembly, facilitated by the CIHRS and the CDF Syria.

Other specific actions on Syria

\* Kamel Jendoubi represented the EMHRN at a seminar organised on 24 June by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Brussels entitled: Syria: From a Centralised Political Culture to a Democratic Pluralistic One. Participants were representatives from Syrian NGOs and from the EU Institutions.

\* The EMHRN secretariat remained in regular contact with CDF representatives in Syria following Syrian authorities' threat to completely prohibit CDF activities in Syria. The EMHRN also were in regular contact with the CDF regarding the organization of a CDF general assembly.

## j. Tunisia

<b>Action Plan</b> Tunisia should be given special consideration.
<b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong awareness raising within the EU of human rights problems in Tunisia</li> <li>Monitoring of Association Council meetings between Tunisia and the EU</li> <li>Small-scale support to the CNLT.</li> <li>The organisation of a funding trip for the CNLT to Scandinavia.</li> <li>Support to CNLT and LTDH presence at Brussels meetings.</li> <li>Support to a European Caravan on Human Rights in Tunisia.</li> <li>Monitoring presence in Tunisia on four occasions.</li> <li>The publication of several joint statements on the situation in Tunisia.</li> <li>The publication of reports on trials in Tunisia.</li> </ul> <b>Not achieved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular and systematic work to strengthen capacity of NGOs and EMHRN strategy</li> <li>No conditionality regarding Tunisia by the EU.</li> </ul>

*Tunisia has since the Amman 2000 meeting of the Executive Committee been defined as one of three countries in the EMP where the working conditions of civil society is particular difficult (Syria and Algeria being the two others, and Libya a fourth country but outside the EMP). In addition Tunisia has been considered a key country being the first having signed an Association Agreement with the EU and the first where the AA entered into force. Tunisia has thus been a test case for the strength of the human rights instruments that are embedded in the EMP.*

*As such the EMHRN and many of its members and associates have been actively involved in campaigning and awareness raising on a European level and vis-à-vis the European institutions, in trial monitoring, reporting and issuing of press releases. It has also taken part in work to promote EU funding of independent Tunisian NGOs.*

*Amnesty International, l'Association des Tunisiens des Deux Rives, The Bar Human Rights Committee of Wales and England (BHRC), le Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie, le Conseil National des Libertés en Tunisie, la FIDH, la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Human Rights Watch, la Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, the OMCT, individual members Anna Bozzo and Caroline Stainier (also working with Avocats sans Frontières) and Khemais Chammari have been amongst the key players in the campaigns, monitoring and trial monitoring while a great number of EMHRN members have taken part in the general awareness raising in Europe and the Arab world.*

*It is the EMHRN's belief that the joint efforts of the NGOs has had a significant impact on EU-Tunisian relations and have led to significant change of attitude of key players with the EU institutions vis-à-vis Tunisia and pressure on Tunisia to comply with its international human rights obligations, including allowing Tunisian NGOs freedom and funds to act. The human rights situation in Tunisia has however not improved neither has the process of democratisation. Continued and focussed cooperation and work by the human rights community is therefore needed.*

*EMHRN and members actions vis-à-vis Tunisia between November 2000 and May 2002 are outlined in the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Report.*

Specific actions following the Athens General Assembly are the following:

\* On 20 June the EMHRN, in cooperation with Lawyers Without Borders, Belgium and the CRLDHT, sent Ms Caroline Stainier, individual member of EMHRN, on a mission to Tunisia to attend the trial of Zouheir Yahyaoui. EMHRN issued two press releases on the arrest of Yahyaoui and a joint statement on the verdict.

\* From 9-12 July 2002, Mr Jean-Pierre Dubois of Human Rights League, France paid a solidarity visit to Ms Radhia Nassraoui on behalf of EMHRN, FIDH and CRLDHT. Ms Nassraoui was on a hunger strike for more than four weeks protesting against the authorities' refusal to let her visit her husband Hamma Hammami, who had been incarcerated since February 2. Her protest was also directed against the deplorable prison conditions including systematic torture to which her husband and his three co-defendants are subjected. Hamma Hammami and Samir Tamallah were released on 4 September due to their health conditions.

\* EMHRN also issued a press release protesting against the 8 month prison sentence delivered against Tunisian Journalist Abdallah Zouari on 26 August 2002.

\* At the end of the year, the EMHRN alerted the EU institutions about the worrying developments in Tunisia, in particular the harassment of judge Yahyaoui, several lawyers and human rights defenders. This issue was raised during the December plenary session in Strasbourg.

\* On 20 January 2003, Sihem Ben Sedrine and Omar Mestiri, Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie (CNLT) visited the EMHRN in Copenhagen 20 January 2003 to discuss cooperation with the EMHRN and the situation in Tunisia. In January 2003 the EMHRN and members supported an action week for the judge Yahyaoui organised by several human rights NGOs including the CRLDHT.

\* The EMHRN Brussels office represented by Sandrine Grenier was in regular contact with EMHRN members in Tunisia and took part in general advocacy efforts related to EU funding and policies related to Tunisia.

\* On 26 September 2003 The EMHRN, the FIDH and the OMCT jointly issued a statement on the human rights situation in Tunisia prior to the EU-Tunisia Association Council on 29 September 2003.

#### k. Turkey

<b>Action Plan</b>
No mention
<b>Adopted by the EC in Istanbul</b>
<b>Achievement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions and reports on an irregular basis</li> <li>• Concept paper for an EMHRN WG on the Kurdish question</li> </ul>
<b>Not achieved</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG on the Kurdish question</li> <li>• Sustained dialogue with EMHRN members.</li> <li>• No explicit strategy</li> </ul>

*Turkey is a full partner to the EMP as a Mediterranean country and human rights issues relevant to Turkey broadly resemble those of many South Mediterranean countries in particular when it comes to the rights of the Kurds. However, Turkey also represents a particular case in the sense that its main interaction with the EU is channelled through accession negotiations in order to become full EU member.*

*The EMHRN and its members have in the past worked in relation to Turkey by systematically inviting members based in Turkey to meetings on regional issues and by monitoring key trials against human rights defenders as well as produced joint reports. In addition activities have focussed on legislative screening of Turkish legislation in relation the Accession procedures. Involved in these activities has been the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Human Rights Association (IHD), the Kurdish Human Rights Project, the OMCT, the Tunisian League for Human Rights (see the Marseille and Athens activity reports).*

*At the General Assembly in Athens the participants approved a declaration on the establishment of a Kurdish Working Group with the aim to assist the EMHRN and execute various activities on its behalf protecting and promoting the human rights of the Kurdish people.*

In follow-up to the meeting one of the initiators, lawyer Jon Rud, observer at the Athens GAM, drafted a proposal for the work of the group that was translated and circulated to those participants who had expressed interest in joining the WG. The document met however little feed-back in the first instance.

In the meantime then, the EMHRN held an EC meeting in Istanbul in September 2002 where several contacts were made with Turkish human rights defenders including a mission to Diyarbakir by Kamel Jendoubi, Marit Floe Joergensen and Sandrine Grenier. Subsequently the secretariat staff conducted several consultations to further explore the feasibility of establishing a working group on the Kurdish question.

As a result, the EMHRN organised a meeting in Copenhagen on 5 May 2003 on how to activate the Kurdish working group. Nazmi Gur, IHD, Jon Rud, Klaus Slavensky, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sarah Han (EMHRN Secretariat) participated in the meeting. The group proposed that in order not to duplicate the good work done by other organisations, the specificity of the EMHRN WG in the Kurdish issue could be to monitor how the EU responds to the HR reporting information it receives regarding the Kurds in Turkey, and to which extend it is doing an adequate job promoting democracy and human rights. It was also proposed to send a mission to Brussels to inquire into current EU human rights monitoring of Turkey in preparation of the first working group.

The purpose and activities of the working group on the Kurdish issues were subsequently outlined in a concept paper that was approved with some amendments at the EC meeting in Belfast. At the time of writing a mission to Brussels was

scheduled for early November in anticipation of a first WG meeting **(the concept paper is enclosed in an annex to this report for discussion and ratification)**

## **17. NEW MEMBERS**

For the General Assembly in Malta the EC recommends that the following are adopted as:

Regular member :

- The Bar Human Rights Committee of Wales and England (BHRC)
- CIPA (Comité pour la Paix, les Droits des l'Homme et la Démocratie en Algérie)
- Al Haq, Palestine
- Sisterhood is Global (SIGI), Jordan

Associate member :

- OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture)

### **Cancellation of memberships**

\* The Vice President of the Forum of Mediterranean Citizens announced to the EMHRN in March 2003 that it members had decided to dissolve the organisation. Its membership of the EMHRN therefore ends.

\* The Executive Committee recommends that the General Assembly exclude LAW from membership. The recommendation follows an Audit report (Investigation Report, 25 March 2003) that was very incriminating regarding management practices in the organisation in particular regarding former Director, Khader Shkirat. The latter never gave an explanation regarding the Audit report to the Executive Committee and did not attend executive committee meetings after the GAM in Athens. In addition, the EMHRN was never informed about initiatives of the board of LAW to reform management practices of the organisation.

In July 2003 an EMHRN mission to Palestine did not succeed in meeting LAW representatives despite requests. However, the mission team was told by former LAW staff that LAW had a new composition of its board, that it appointed a new director, that it transferred its office from Israeli territory to Area C in the West Bank, that it transferred its funds to Ramallah, and that it sought to register under a new name under the Palestinian authorities. Despite several written requests from the EMHRN asking LAW to forward relevant documents concerning nominations to the board, appointment of Director and current registration, the representatives of LAW did not forward any of legal document requested.

The Executive Committee discussed the case of LAW at its meeting in Casablanca. It sent a letter to LAW 30 September 2003 informing LAW that it would recommend the GAM to exclude the organisation and it encouraged LAW to produce relevant documents that might convince the EC to change decisions.

## **18. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

### **a. EC members**

\* On 9 April, the EMHRN received an e-mail announcing Khader Shkirat's resignation from his post at the Executive Committee of the EMHRN because of other obligations.

### **b. Management group**

\* The EC management group held meetings in Copenhagen, 17.5.2002 and 14-15 February 2003. In addition, Kamel Jendoubi came to Copenhagen 27-28 July 2003 for a budget meeting with the executive director. Kamel Jendoubi and Colm Regan both came to Copenhagen in July 2003. The main items of the meeting have been the development of statutes, by-laws, regulations on wages and salaries, job descriptions and action plan.

### **c. Auditing and administrative cooperation**

EMHRN auditing and accounting procedures were initiated and established in the period between 1 June 2001 and 1 May 2002 in cooperation with the private auditing company PriceWaterHouseCoopers.

In 2003 the EMHRN accounting systems became fully operational and independent from the Danish Centre for Human Rights (after 2003 the Danish Institute for Human Rights) including the employment of a full time accountant. The system is managed through Internet and has made EMHRN payments and transfers easier and faster to handle.

In August 2003 The EMHRN finalised the process of developing job description for all employees and at the end of the report period the EMHRN was about to finalise an internal wages and salaries agreement based on EU, Danish and Belgium legislation and on relevant trade union agreements with the Danish state.

A document on EMHRN internal rules of procedures were drafted during 2003 and were about to be finalised at the end of this reporting period.

### **d. Funding**

In the past period the Marc Schade-Poulsen and Colm Regan had meetings with Foreign Department representatives in Ireland. Marc Schade-Poulsen also had meetings with representatives of SIDA in Sweden and DANIDA in Denmark. On 15 July Marc Schade-Poulsen and Sandrine Grenier, had a meeting with the European Commission's Europe Aid office on 15 July regarding continued support for the work of the EMHRN. It was agreed that an evaluation of EMHRN work should be initiated in this regard.

### **e. Staff**

#### **Regular Staff**

The EMHRN Secretariat was during the entire period staffed by the following:

Executive director, Marc Schade-Poulsen: In charge of contacts to the EC, EC meetings, the General Assembly, fund raising, representation, content of reports, program development and mission concepts, annual narrative and financial reports, coordination of workshops, staff management and development, etc.

Information officer, Marit Floe Joergensen: In charge of maintaining the EMHRN website in three languages, writing newsletters to members, and until 2002 writing minutes from EC meetings, the organisation of missions, developing thematic priorities within the field of human rights education, women's rights, web site and external information, training, proof reading and publication of reports.

Administrative coordinator, Sannie Nielsen, employed with the main task of setting-up meetings, seminars, managing travel accounting, book keeping, filing, correspondence, ad hoc translations, contact to translators, and distribution of reports and after 2002 servicing the Executive Committee meetings.

Full-time coordinator in Brussels, Sandrine Grenier, with the main task to: represent and implement the policy of the EMHRN and its members in relation to the institutions and representatives of the EU and the EMP; inform EMHRN members about the policies and development of the institutions of the EU and the EMP; facilitate access of EMHRN members to the institutions of the EU and the EMP; and maintain close contact to other organisations in Brussels.

On 1 January 2003 Elaine Kitbull-Jessen was employed as full time accountant in charge of managing EMHRN accounts, book keeping, auditing etc.

In May 2003 Line Gamrath-Rasmussen was employed on an 11 months interim basis as full-time officer in charge of servicing the NGO Platform for the EuroMed Civil Forum, the launch of the EuroMed Human Rights Foundation and for coordinating other EMHRN meetings.

On 7 July 2003 Marita Roos was employed on a 8 months interim basis in charge of internal communication with a specific reference to Palestine.

On 15 September 2003 Maibritt Damgaard Nielsen took over Sannie Nielsen's responsibilities as administrative coordinator during Sannie's maternity leave.

### **Interns**

Sarah Han, worked as in intern for the EMHRN from September 2002 to May 2003 and was replaced for one month Carmen Lloveres.

### **Student assistance**

The EMHRN have in the report period employed two part-time students (15 hours per week). From 1 January 2002, Lea Arentoft was employed to manage the website. Leila Drar, after finishing her internship with the EMHRN, was employed as a student assistant until 31 December 2002. From 17 January 2002, to 19 July Stine Berner also worked as a student assistant. Laurence Le Moing, assisted the EMHRN as a full time student assistant from 21 May to 19 July 2002. Alejandra Jørgensen started working as an interim student assistant 1 August 2003.

### **Translators**

Translations are made outside the secretariat while proof reading is done by the secretariat. In order to keep up with the increasing EMHRN demand for translation into our three working languages, the EMHRN made a call for translators in August 2002.

### **Work days**

The EMHRN held weekly staff meetings in Copenhagen and full day staff meeting with both the Brussels and Copenhagen 10 April, 25 June and 19 December 2002 and 4 March and 17 June 2003 in order to strengthen internal working procedures and planning

## **16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

\* The EMHRN is grateful to members and associates for their voluntary support and assistance and for promoting the EMHRN and acting on its behalf and in its name in the past period without which the network had not succeeded in functioning according to its mandate, i.e. as a genuine network.

\* The EMHRN also thanks Erik Trolle for drafting of statutes of the EuroMed Human Rights Foundation. It is grateful for the financial support received by DANIDA; Dan ChurchAid; The EU Commission; the Ford Foundation; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Heinrich Boell Stiftung; NOVIB; the Plum Foundation and SIDA and for constructive partnerships concluded with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

EMHRN 30 September 2003

## **Appendix**

Euromed Human Rights Foundation

Statutes of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

Position paper on EMHRN and the Kurdish problem

List of publications