

Appendix 4: Annual Report of Activities 2006-2007 (and first half of 2008)

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1. Summary of the Activity Report

Introduction

The following activity report covers EMHRN activities in 2006 and 2007 (and a summary of activities for the first half of 2008). It takes its point of departure in the 7th General Assembly of the EMHRN (Madrid 2006) as the members during the meeting adopted a new strategy for 2006-2010 and a two years work program for 2006 and 2007 upon which EMHRN activities have been based.

Following a short account of the General Assembly the report summarises the main points of the strategy and work program and thereafter moves on to a detailed account the different activities of the EMHRN comparing outcome with the objectives set-out in 2006.

Human Rights and Democratisation

Freedom of association

The EMHRN achieved its short term objective of establishing a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association by

- Publishing a review of the situation of freedom of association in legislation and practice including a first proposal for indicators to measure progress or setbacks.
- Organising workshops on FOA with the representatives of key human rights NGOs and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region
- Diffusing the results and recommendations to civil society groups and governments

Research and coordination took more time than expected as the task of bringing 11 country rapporteurs and to expert writers to work together while consulting with the WG, Steering committee and EMHRN members in different countries, including discussing indicators proved a larger task than planned for.

Now that the mechanism is place further debates will take place on the relation between security agendas and FOA restrictions. Also indicators will be further developed, and the dissemination of the annual report will be strengthened.

Furthermore, the three meetings of the WG were conducive in leading the EMHRN towards the objective of developing sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association hopefully conducive to change in legislation where relevant.

Justice

The EMHRN achieved its short term objective of contributing to the development of spaces for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary by organising meetings that were widely praised in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and France (Tunisia). The meetings did stimulate debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary with the participation of representatives of the judiciary.

The EMHRN also produced a mapping of ongoing initiatives on the judiciary in the region and stimulated the writing of national reports. The reports will facilitate the organisation of new meetings in the countries mentioned above as well as new countries leading towards the general objective of initiating the consolidation of networks and groups of actors in South and East Mediterranean societies who are able to influence the judiciaries.

In this regard another step was been taken due the fact that the WG was able to define a new work program for the next years pointing in that direction.

The EMHRN did not succeed in organising meetings in Algeria. A planned joint program with Avocat sans Frontières did not materialise due to obstruction by the Algerian authorities; and alternatives had not been identified in the first half of 2008.

Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

The EMHRN took significant steps forward in promoting gender equality in public policies in the EuroMed region through systematic and successful lobbying of Euromed regional state cooperation regarding the Istanbul Action Plan on the Role of Women in Society.

Other work on gender issues was hampered by the fact that the several changes of staff took place while implementing the activities.

However, the EMHRN took concrete steps forward in promoting gender mainstreaming by initiating gender mainstreaming of EMHRN research reports, and by organising its first gender mainstreaming courses leading to the finalising of a gender mainstreaming kit. It also initiated a program for the WG focussing on the Istanbul action plan and continuing gender mainstreaming activities within the EMHRN membership.

Human Rights Education

The EMHRN achieved its short term objectives of organising a successful Summer School for young people including a strong participation of the WG members. It also published a report assessing and evaluating human rights education in the region. The Summer School took-up the major part of the WG's time and networking took in particular place around that activity. Discussions were opened as to whether the HRE WG should be the only site for EMHRN work with young people.

Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

Until July 2007, the EMHRN continued development of the Activities of the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians by organising bi-annual WG meetings, publicising an annual report on the EU and Israel, EU advocacy and missions. It also developed activities for strengthening the capacity of member organisations to work on the EU institutions.

However, the EMHRN regretfully had to down scale its activities significantly during 11 months starting from July 2007 when the coordinator of the WG stopped her assignment with the EMHRN. The EMHRN did not have the resources to immediately replace the coordinator and when resources were identified it took time to find a qualified replacement. Nevertheless, the WG proved its sustainability by continuing to conduct activities 'on its own'. It also reconfirmed that the added value of the EMHRN WG lies in doing EU advocacy work. In that regard, the EMHRN decided to locate an advocacy coordinator for the PIP work in Brussels instead of Copenhagen. The EMHRN WG on PIP was up running fully in July 2008.

The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The EMHRN arrived closer but not fully to its ambitious short term objective of establishing a platform for regional civil society on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

It held regular working group meetings to which were associated a number of NGO partner organisations and representatives of intergovernmental and international organisations. It moved towards the idea of preparing an urgent alert action networking to protect migrants and refugees. Several joint projects have also come out of the activities, and policy papers and news briefs have been produced. Also increased information about the EU and other related policies relevant to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees have been provided.

The EMHRN did not arrive at establishing a follow-up group of EMHRN members in Morocco or to discuss the question of Palestinian refugees in detail and the thematic reports were not published as planned.

Economic and Social Rights

The aim of developing activities in the field of economic and social rights was maintained. However, the EMHRN only partly succeeded in fulfilling its objectives as implementation of activities in the established working groups as well as managing the growth of the Network and of activities took most of its resources.

Membership Support

Communication

The EMHRN took several steps towards achieving the objectives set out in the Working program. The EC discussed the communication strategy of the EMHRN at several meetings. The EMHRN established a common layout for its publications. It employed a full time communication officer (based in Copenhagen) and developed communication plans for that position. It did not succeed in employing a second communication officer in Brussels, and many things still needs to be done in relation to the Media. However, the EMHRN identified funds in 2008 to employ a media officer in Cairo to deal with the Arab press. The EMHRN finalised its new web site with important contributions by the members that received an increasing number of visitors (12 206 in June 2008) (source: Awstats). The EMHRN identified funds to upgrade the technical set-up of the Web site which will provide it with more visitors in the future. Also its News bulletin and press releases reached an increasing number of subscribers. The number of press statements increased including the number of media that mentioned the EMHRN's activities. The EMHRN began systematically organizing public meetings and/or press meetings on the occasion of its Working group meetings. Finally, the EMHRN succeeded in continuing the time- and resource consuming but rewarding policy of ensuring that its key documents and communication was done in its three working languages, Arabic, English and French.

Solidarity

The EMHRN was only partly able to fulfil its short term objectives. It did not succeed in appointing a part time coordinator for the work; to draft a concept paper on its policy; or to re-launch the idea of creating a trial monitoring program.

However in the first half of 2008 it identified funds for a full time coordinator to work on solidarity in the future (from 2009 with a main focus on Algeria, Syria and Tunisia). It also continued close cooperation with the EMHRF hosted by the EMHRN and originally established by it. It followed a number of cases where its members were at risk. By the end of 2007 it increasingly moved its solidarity work to the Working groups with the effect of an increasing number of cases being dealt with.

Training

The EMHRN partly fulfilled the objectives of its work program. Regrettably it did not have the resources to establish an overview of training and capacity building activities within the Network or draft a concept paper regarding its training programmes. It did however organise the planned training and advocacy seminars. Also some working groups integrated training on EU and international instruments in their agendas. Finally the EMHRN continued organising and planning human rights education Summer Schools.

Advocacy and dialogue

The EMHRN consolidated and developed its advocacy work in relation to the EU institutions. It was increasingly consulted by EU institution representatives and regularly presented its work in the Council (Maghreb-Machrek group, the European Parliament Sub committee on human rights, and EU commission (country desks, regional desks, EU delegation representatives). It significantly strengthened its work on the bi-lateral relations between the EU and its Mediterranean partners through its work on the European Neighbourhood policy and by systematically following the bi-lateral association council meetings between the EU and its Mediterranean partners.

The EMHRN did not yet succeed in employing a media officer in Brussels or develop a media strategy for Brussels. However, in the first half of 2008 the Brussels office was significantly strengthened as it employed a full time coordinator to work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians and was in the process of up-grading the position on the ENP from a part time job to a full time position.

Partnerships

The EMHRN fulfilled most of its short term objectives and it consolidated and developed relations with a wide range of actors in the region. Most efforts were put into supporting the EuroMed NGO Platform and contribute to the development of its internal coherence. The EMHRN also maintained close relations with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Several joint initiatives were taken with international human rights organisations in particular joint statements, and close relations were kept on a daily basis with the Human Rights and Democracy Network in Brussels.

The EMHRN did not have resources to further engage in social forums and political platforms, and it ceased hosting the Danish Network of NGOs upon decision of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Executive Bodies and memberships

The EMHRN achieved most of its objectives. However it did not yet finalise a gender mainstreaming strategy but took several steps in that regard; it did not yet define a pro active approach to new memberships of the EMHRN, but initiated a critical view with regard to members who are not active in EMHRN work.

Administration

The EMHRN fulfilled most of its objectives. It set up a new organisational structure although it proved more cumbersome than expected due to a sudden change in several staff position in the first half of 2007. It consolidated its antennas in the South, but did not yet implement a staff development plan, due to the said changes in its composition. Finally, it succeeded in diversifying its funding sources.

2. Introduction

The following report covers EMHRN activities in 2006 and 2007 (while also providing a summary of activities for the first half of 2008 in order to facilitate EMHRN member's discussion and evaluation of EMHRN activities at the 8th General Assembly).

The report is first and foremost an activity report aiming at ensuring transparency and accountability of EMHRN work towards members and donors. Political reports accounting for EMHRN activities as they relate to the human rights situation in the region are presented by the Executive Committee (through its President) at the EMHRN General Assembly. Evaluations are first and foremost the task of the EMHRN general assembly and of external evaluators.

However, the report does discuss some elements of the overall regional context in which the work of the EMHRN took place. It also relates the activities of the EMHRN to the goals set out in its work program for 2006 and 2007.

The report takes its point of departure in the 7th General Assembly of the EMHRN (Madrid 2006) as the members during the meeting adopted a new strategy for 2006-2010 and a two years work program for 2006 and 2007 upon which EMHRN activities have been based.

Following a short account of the General Assembly the report summarises the main points of the strategy and work program and thereafter moves on to a detailed account the different activities of the EMHRN comparing outcome with the objectives set-out in 2006.

3. The General Assembly

Output of General Assembly

- *Annual political -, activity- and financial reports adopted*
- *Strategy Document, Work Program and Budget approved*
- *President and executive committee elected*
- *14 new members adopted (and 6 memberships discontinued)*

The 7th General Assembly of the EMHRN gathered 87 participants in Madrid. Under the heading of Developing Synergies between Regional and Local Human Rights, the participants discussed and adopted the political report of the President, the activity report of the Network and the audited financial reports. The main topic of the GA was the discussion of a future strategy and work program including the organisation of EMHRN activities within the framework of two programs, one on human rights and democratisation, and one on human rights and human security. It also included discussion of networking and advocacy methodologies. Specific workshops dealt with freedom of association; the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; gender mainstreaming; and human rights education. Encounters on the situation in Syria and in Israel and Palestine were organised in the margins of the meeting.

The EMHRN GA was followed-up by the first meeting of the Council of Representatives of the EuroMed Foundation for the Support of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), established by the EMHRN in 2004 following a General Assembly decision (Malta). The Council of Representatives is composed of regular, associate and individual members of the EMHRN¹.

The work program adopted at the General Assembly took its point of departure in the fact that the EuroMed region is still plagued by severe problems: conflicts and war; regular and systematic violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and democratic principles; erosion of civil and political rights; structural problems within the judiciaries; lack of institutional capacity to sustain reform such as women's participation in

¹ For a report of this meeting, please consult with the EMHRF. <http://www.emhrf.org/>

public life; exclusion of youth from decision-making; increased barriers to migration and human exchange having serious effects on rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, etc.

With regard to the Barcelona process it noted a serious gap between the declared commitments to human rights in the Barcelona Declaration and the human rights situation in the region. Also serious discrepancies between the human rights instruments set in place and the lack of implementation of these were high-lighted.

That being said, it was also noted that neither the EU nor the South Mediterranean are monolithic entities. In many instances there is a keen and genuine interest in promoting human rights within and between EU member state governments, and sometimes also in the South. It was noted that the EU made progress in terms of developing human rights instruments foreseen in the Barcelona Declaration and that the recent European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) might provide opportunities for dealing pro-actively with human rights.

The General Assembly took place on the back drop of some human rights progress having taken place in parts of the region and the work program took note of the momentum created for democracy movements by outside pressure.

On this basis the General Assembly agreed to work on two issues of primordial importance for the region, namely the question of *human rights and democratisation* and the question of setting human rights and humanitarian law at the centre of initiatives aimed at improving *the security of human beings*. The EMHRN identified the following strategic entry working areas on these issues:

Concerning Human Rights and Democratisation:

- Freedom of Association
- The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary
- Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming
- Human Rights Education and Addressing Young People

Concerning the Security of Human Beings:

- The Middle East Conflict
- The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Economic and Social Rights

At the same time the General Assembly agreed that influencing the EMP, the ENP and EU human rights instruments was an important mean to produce positive results on the ground.

Concerning the organisational development of the Network itself, the General Assembly agreed that the mission of the EMHRN should be to promote and strengthen human rights and democratic reform within the framework of the Barcelona process and EU-Arab cooperation frameworks. Rooted in civil society, the Network should seek to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the EuroMed region, disseminate human rights values and increase its capacity in this regard.

As such, the EMHRN's vision should be to develop into a regional forum for human rights NGOs and become a major regional source of expertise, raising awareness of human rights and democratic reform.

Hence, the General Assembly set networking at the heart of the EMHRN's identity aimed at bringing often disperse NGOs and their initiatives together in a common framework.

It further agreed that establishing thematic working groups in the priority areas of the EMHRN should be tried as a core methodology of the EMHRN since past experience showed that working groups enhance

- Participants' sense of ownership of the EMHRN
- Participants' capacity to work with human rights through improved knowledge and learning, and sharing of methodologies
- Establishing of new contacts and partners
- Capacity to manoeuvre in a regional context, including in relation to inter-governmental bodies, such as responding to changes in the region and providing structured inputs to the EMP, ENP and the EU

- Intercultural understanding
- Cooperation between North and South

These networking efforts should to be sustained by advocacy activities vis-à-vis the EMP, ENP and EU institutions, efforts to build partnerships beyond the human rights community as well as solidarity actions when members or their activities were in crisis – including close cooperation with the EMHRF.

The General Assembly then elected members of the Executive Committee with a two years mandate being responsible for overseeing the implementation of the program and strategy.

Kamel Jendoubi became the president and 11 other members of the executive committee were elected who at their first ordinary meeting constituted themselves in the following manner:

Vice president	Eva Norström
Treasurer	Nizam Assaf
<i>Political referents:</i>	
Freedom of Association	Birgit Lindsnæs
Justice	Michel Tubiana
Women	Rabéa Naciri
Human Rights Education and youth	Colm Regan
Migration	Maria De Donato ²
Economic and social rights	Iain Byrne
Palestine, Israel and Palestinians	Nina Atallah
European Neighbourhood Policy	Moataz El Fegiery
Reform of statutes and internal rules	Iain Byrne and Michel Tubiana
Other special (Iraq, Syria, Gulf countries)	Nizam Assaf
Turkey	Eva Norström
Partnership	Michel Tubiana
EuroMed NGO Platform	
EuroMed Foundation for the	Kamel Jendoubi
Protection of Human Rights Defenders	
Danish NGO Network	Birgit Lindsnæs
Internal tasks:	
Relation with the members and recruitment	Kamel Jendoubi
Working Group referent	Eva Norström
Training programs	Nizam Assaf

The participants' evaluation of the General Assembly showed that a high degree of networking was undertaken by the participants as well as a high rate of satisfaction with the meeting³.

The EMHRN is grateful for EMHRN member Acsur Las Segovias' help and support in facilitating the organisation of the EMHRN General Assembly. It is also grateful for the financial support of the Spanish Development Cooperation, DANIDA and the EU Commission for the holding of the meeting.

4. Developments following the General Assembly

Shortly after the EMHRN General Assembly all talk of an Arabic spring in terms of democracy seemed to die out and the voice of human rights promoters became significantly weakened.

2006 was a year marked by several serious events, the Cartoon crisis, the War in Lebanon and a constant deterioration of the situation in Iraq, plus set-backs in democratisation in Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria and other countries of the region.

² In January, Maria De Donato regrettably resigned from the Executive Committee

³ The evaluation report is available at the EMHRN secretariat. Conclusions of the General Assembly and the adopted documents are available on the EMHRN's web site

In the course of 2006 and 2007 South and East Mediterranean civil society was increasingly caught up in geo-politic tensions beyond its reach. This was primarily due to the situation in Iraq (and indications that the US in order to get out of Iraq is bound to compromise with current Arabic regimes); the growing tension between the US (and Arab allies) and Iran; and the effects of conglomerate sets of factors such as the worsened situation in Israel-Palestine, strengthened Islamist movements; and the waged 'fight against terrorism'.

The situation in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the West Bank and Gaza became to a large extent conditioned by the broader regional conflict in the light of which regimes in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria have been able to consolidate themselves at the expense of democracy and human rights.

In general, human rights respect decreased in the EuroMed region.. In this regard the response to the growing refugee crisis and migrant fluxes was worrying (i.e. the displacement of 1, 7 million Iraqi refugees; the worsened situation of Palestinian refugees; human rights violations experienced by Sudanese refugees in Egypt, and Sub-Saharan migrants and asylum seekers in North Africa). With few exceptions, large parts of Europe reacted to these facts on the ground by supporting initiatives to externalise forced migrants' protection.

2006 and 2007 witnessed a growing disillusion by civil society with the EU as a human rights and democracy 'engine' in the EuroMed region. Even though the ENP does provide new instruments and technical possibilities to promote human rights, the latest regional and national strategy plans and National Indicative Programs brought comfort to the current regimes rather than challenging them.

Despite these developments, the EMHRN maintained the choice of working on democratisation and the security of human beings in the EuroMed region believing they remain valid key issues in situations of regression and believing in the importance of maintaining basic human rights work in a context of human rights setbacks. Hence, the EMHRN continued to develop its work within the area of activities decided by the General Assembly.

Since early 2006 the EMHRN was busy implementing its work program in an inclusive and participatory process while growing in terms of membership, staff and turn-over

Following the adoption of the strategy document and work program by the General Assembly the EMHRN launched a call for participation in its working groups with clear and transparent admission criteria. By the end of 2006, 95 human rights defenders⁴ were involved in the EMHRN's working groups. In the same period the EMHRN opened an antenna in Jordan and consolidated its antenna in Morocco (in addition to its office in Brussels) while developing a new organisational structure of the EMHRN secretariat.

In all, the EMHRN's main organisational focus became the build-up of sustainable mid- and long-term structures for member participation and activities.

This emphasis and the parallel launch of specific projects within each working group meant that the EMHRN for a period only to a smaller degree was able to react to current issues and members' urgent concerns, and to communicate its positions and doings to the outside world. The focus on project and working group management also meant that coherence and overview seemed weaker.

Therefore, in the second half of 2007 the EMHRN started more actively to integrate public meetings, press statements and solidarity statements into the work of the working groups. It also started a process of down scaling the 'project load' of the working groups while providing them with more time and resources to respond to concerns and campaigns of members (and other human rights NGOs).

The EMHRN believes that the initiation of the working groups augurs well for the future and that adjustment and adaption to the needs of the members and civil society should be continuously furthered. It will give sustainability to the work of the EMHRN and help build capacity to human rights organisations within their field of specialisation.

⁴ 42 regular member organisations out of 52 regular members had at least one representative in one working group. 5 out of 10 individual members joined a working group and 1 out of 11 associate members.

5. Networking

5.1 Working groups

Output 2006

- *Launch of 6 working groups and identification of 95 individuals to take part in these among EMHRN regular, associate and individual members*

Output 2007

- *For the first time in its history the EMHRN was able to organise 6 different Working groups' meetings on a regular basis.*

Output 2008

- *By-laws and a concept paper for the WG were in the process of being drafted with the view of presenting these for the general assembly*

Activities

As mentioned above the GA set networking at the heart of the EMHRN's identity. It welcomed the methodology developed over the years of establishing thematic working groups within EMHRN priority areas and the proposal to set-up and/or developing working groups within two program areas:

- *Human Rights and Democratisation: Freedom of Association:* The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary, Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming, Human Rights Education addressing young people.
- *Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings:* Palestine, Israel and Palestinians; the Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers; and Economic and Social Rights.

2006

Following the GA the EMHRN concentrated its efforts on re-launching the Working groups according to transparent and democratic selection criteria. Hence, a team composed of the program director, the Vice President and President established and published selection criteria and launched a call for participation among its members during summer 2006 with the result that most EMHRN members had representatives in at least one working group when the list was published in October 2006. This means a total of 95 human rights activists being directly involved in delivery of the EMHRN's agenda a part from the Executive Committee, the secretariat and a range of members active outside the working groups.

The whole process of initiating EMHRN 2006 and 2007 activities by firstly waiting for the approval of work program and strategy by the GA and then establishing working groups slowed down the implementation of the Work program. However, the EMHRN is convinced that the methodology used is conducive to creating sustainability and ownership to its activities in the long run.

2007

2007 became the first year in which all 6 working groups of the EMHRN were able to meet regularly. The evaluations of the meetings by the participants showed broad support and high ratings in terms of getting new knowledge, meeting new people and networking with these. However, as is the case with all new initiatives the initiation of the Working groups also led to debates about the level of activity and exchanges of participants in between the meetings; the level of feed-back by members to their own organisations; the interrelation and role of coordinators, conveners and political referents; as well as the relation between the executive committee and the working groups in terms of decision making

2008

These debates triggered a process in 2008 of drafting a concept paper and by-laws for the WGs that has been circulated to all WG members before the General Assembly.

5.2 Human Rights and Democratisation

The overall objective of these activities were to provide input to democratisation processes in the strategic intervention areas of freedom of association, justice, gender equality and women's rights, and human rights education and to increase EMHRN members' capacity in this regard through networking.

5.2.1 Freedom of Association (FOA)

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of human rights values and international standards relating to freedom of association in the EuroMed region, in particular in the South Mediterranean area.

The **general objective** is to develop sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association conducive to change in legislation where relevant and, by extension, conducive to democratic reform.

The **short term objective** is to establish a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association and, indirectly by extension, progress or setbacks of democratisation

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The project will involve:

1. Drafting:
 - a. a review of the situation of freedom of association in legislation and practice – including evaluating whether security agendas justify restrictions;
 - b. proposals for ways/indicators to measure progress or setbacks in terms of freedom of association;
 - c. proposals for relating such indicators to the broader question of democratic reform in the region
2. Organising workshops with the representatives of key human rights NGOs and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region to prepare, discuss and adopt the report and its recommendations
3. Diffusing the results and recommendations to civil society groups and governments

Updating the review after a year, including reporting on progress and setbacks in legislation and practice.

Summary of achievements

The EMHRN achieved its short term objective of establishing a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association by

- Publishing a review of the situation of freedom of association in legislation and practice including a first proposal for indicators to measure progress or setbacks.
- Organising workshops on FOA with the representatives of key human rights NGOs and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region
- Diffusing the results and recommendations to civil society groups and governments

Research and coordination took more time than expected as the task of bringing 11 country rapporteurs and to expert writers to work together while consulting with the WG, Steering committee and EMHN members in different countries, including discussing indicators proved a larger task than planned for.

Now that the mechanism is place further debates will take place on the relation between security agendas and FOA restriction. Also indicators will be further developed, and the dissemination of the annual report will be strengthened.

Furthermore, the three meetings of the WG were conducive in leading the EMHRN towards the objective of developing sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association hopefully conducive to change in legislation where relevant.

Output 2006

- *Internal report from steering group meeting in Copenhagen*
- *Research process initiated*
- *A Working group on Freedom of Association established*
- *A workshop organised in cooperation with the Seydoux Foundation during the Civil Forum in Marrakech*

Output 2007

- *Two meetings organised of the Working Group on Freedom of Association in Copenhagen and Brussels*
- *A first Annual report on Freedom of Association researched, published and diffused widely*
- *Country reports on Freedom of Association researched and published on the EMHRN's Web site*
- *Specific Web pages on Freedom of Association established on the EMHRN's web site.*
- *Contact established with other regional initiatives on freedom of association; FIDH, Friedrich Nauman Foundation, Club de Madrid, European Trade Union Confederation*
- *A public seminar and press conference on Freedom of Association in the EuroMed region organised in Brussels*
- *A Public hearing in the European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights organised in Brussels*
- *6 Press releases on the question of Freedom of Association*

Output 2008

- *Working group meeting on Freedom of Association organised in Cairo*
- *Contacts maintained with other regional freedom of association initiatives*
- *Co-organising of public meeting on Freedom of Association in Egypt in cooperation with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies on Freedom of Association in Egypt*
- *Meeting on freedom of association between EMHRN WG and Egyptian and support to the Egyptian NGO campaign*
- *Meetings with Egyptian officials regarding Freedom of Association in Egypt*
- *Outline of the second Annual report on Freedom of Association agreed and research initiated*
- *Support and statements issued in 12 cases*

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and discussed the project on Freedom of Association in the context of a specific workshop during the EMHRN General Assembly in May 2006.
- Following the general Assembly, and the publication of a Call for participation in June 2006 11 members were selected, and the Working group was operational as from October 2006 (see the detailed list of WG members in annex).
- Before the first meeting of the WG a Project Steering Group composed of EMHRN members and resource persons were set- up to get the projects going. Furthermore, two experts (Khémaïs Chammari and Maria Ghantous) were identified to draft the first Annual Review.
- A meeting of the Steering Group and the researchers was organised in August 2006. At this meeting, the feasibility and practical organisation of drafting a report on the Freedom of Association was explored. The group launched the process of planning the content and the methodology of the Review, including

proposing indicators to measure progress and set-back in individual countries in the South Mediterranean region⁵.

- The Steering Group meeting was followed by a separate one-day planning meeting between the Working Group coordinator and both researchers held in Paris in October 2006.
- In addition, in November 2006, the EMHRN co-organised, with the Foundation René Seydoux and the FEMEC, a workshop on Freedom of Association at the EuroMed Civil Forum in Marrakech (with a total of 350 participants), where the project was presented and discussed.

2007

- On 3-4 March 2007, the full Working Group on Freedom of Association met for the first time in Copenhagen.
- The working Group finalized the outline of the Review on Freedom of Association in the EuroMed Region and had thorough discussions on the methodology, the structure and content of this first annual review.
- This first meeting provided opportunities for participants to establish the first contacts. They strongly supported the drafting of a review and several debates took place on the recent events related to the freedom of association in the 11 countries covered by the WG.
- After the meeting the EMHRN decided to hire one rapporteur for each of the 11 East and South Mediterranean countries⁶. Due to the good quality of the reports, it was later decided to publish them on the EMHRN website
- From September to October 2007, the detailed research reports were summarized by Khémaïs Chammari and Marie Ghantous. Meanwhile, during summer 2007, an intern, Thibaut Guillet, had also been hired to draft a legal research on the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and on the situation of minorities with regard to freedom of association in Europe.
- The first EMHRN 'Review on Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region' was published in December 2007 and widely disseminated, both through hard copies and emails, among EMHRN members and civil society organisations at large, and to national and international institutions in the EuroMed region.

The review describes the situation of Freedom of Association in 11 countries of the region, both in legislation and practice, while developing a first set of indicators that in time will allow measuring progress and setback in FOA on an annual basis. The Review includes a synthesis, one chapter for each of the 11 countries covered, as well as one specific part dealing with the situation within the European Union. Finally, it provides a set of recommendations to Governments, both from the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

It was officially presented on the occasion of the second working group meeting on FOA, 15-16 December, to which other organisations also dealing with FOA in the region, i.e. the Club of Madrid, Frederick Naumann Foundation, European Trade Union Confederation and FIDH, were invited. A public meeting was organized with the participation of EU Commission representatives and representatives of Brussels based NGOs. The report was also presented during a session of the European Parliament's Sub-Commission on Human Rights in December 2007, and in this context distributed within the EU Parliament, the EU Commission and EU delegations in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Other beneficiaries were the Government officials of the countries covered by the Network, the UNHCHR, more than 100 NGOs and numerous media.

During the presentation before the European Parliament's Sub-Commission on Human Rights in December 2007, three human rights defenders⁷ also told about the situation they face in their respective countries.

⁵ Participants at the meeting were Ghassan Moukheiber (Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association, Lebanon), Khemais Chammari (Consultant, Tunisia), Birgit Lindsnaes (Danish Institute for Human Rights Denmark), Iain Byrne (Human Rights Centre, Essex), Jan de Vries (Humanist Committee, Netherlands) plus EMHRN staff members.

⁶ With the generous support of EMHRN member, the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Amongst other human rights defenders speaking at the meeting were Tarek Khater, President of the Association for Human Rights Legal Aid which was dissolved by Egyptian authorities less than six months earlier.

During the WG meeting, the working group decided to give its activities three directions: 1. Activities with regard to the present Review on Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, 2. activities with regard to the next Review, and 3. activities other than the Review.

The working group members decided to disseminate the report before national constituencies and if possible, hold public meetings to give publicity to the report; it established a new Steering committee⁸ to prepare the outline for the next Review.

Finally, the working group decided to strive towards becoming a forum of exchange of ideas and experiences in order to inform and to contribute to solidarity actions.

First half of 2008

- In 2008, the EMHRN issued press statements to assist Dimitras Panayote (Greek Helsinki Monitor) who was victim of harassment in Greece, as well as Mr Ethem Açıklan, Chairperson of the IHD branch in Adana, who had been arrested after attending to a meeting. The EMHRN (with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders) also expressed its relief after the withdrawal of the draft law on association in Jordan, which was particularly restrictive for NGOs.
- The EMHRN issued a joint press release with the Observatory to welcome the verdict issued on 30 March 2008 by the Egyptian judiciary, which allowed the Center for Trade Unions and Workers' Services (CTUWS) to continue its activities in Egypt. A statement was also issued to support Khémaïs Chammari, who was victim of acts of harassment at the airport of Tunis Carthage on April 10 2008.
- Meanwhile preparations began for the second annual report and the third WG meeting. A telephone meeting was organised with the steering group on 14 March 2008 during which it agreed to propose that the next Annual review, a part from updating on the situation in the region should focus on the impact of anti-terrorist measures on freedom of association and on the question of gender equality within FOA
- The third WG meeting took place in Cairo on 23-24 May. The meeting aimed at discussing: 1) the Review methodology and further steps when the Review was finalised; (2) how to react in cases of violation of Freedom of Association in the region; (3) the current situation Egypt and the potential initiatives that the EMHRN could undertake. It also included a meeting with Egyptian NGOs, inter alia the Egyptian NGO campaign on Freedom of Association; the CTUWS and AHRLA.
- The FOA WG also took an active part as co-organisers in the CIHRS meeting on Freedom of Association on 25 May. This meeting aimed at discussing the current situation in Egypt where a new law could be issued soon. The first EMHRN Review on Freedom of Association was presented and an alternative law on NGOs drafted by Judge El Bastawesy was presented and discussed.⁹ Danial Saoud from the CDF Syria informed

⁷ Khémaïs Chammari (individual member), but also Moataz El Fegieri (Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Egypt) and Amina Bouayach (Moroccan Organizations for Human Rights, Morocco).

⁸ I.e. Iain Byrne (Essex University, EMHRN EC member), Panayote Dimitras (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Amina Bouayach (Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme) and Maan Kheirbeik (CDF-SYria). Later, Yamina Rahou, Algerian League for Human Rights (and member of the Gender WG) was included in the group to ensure the integration of the gender approach.

⁹ During the workshop, an alternative law on NGOs was presented by Judge Hesham El Bastawesy on behalf of the CIHRS and serious concerns were raised about the plans of the Egyptian authorities to amend the current law in Egypt for the worse. Unfortunately, a dispute between [Judge Hesham El Bastawesy] and certain working group members arose when Article 3 of the draft law was discussed, whereby "no objectives of associations might be in contradiction with public order or morals". Some members expressed concern that this clause would not respect the rights of minorities, notably national and sexual minorities. A heated discussion took place over homosexuals' rights, causing several working group members to walk out in protest after recalling that the basic rights and freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applied to all individuals "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status", and as such no distinction could be made.

about recent events in Syria while WG coordinator Thibaut Guillet made a short presentation on the 'Best practices related to Freedom of Association outside the Arab world'.

- Furthermore, on 24 May, EC member Moataz El Fegiery and Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen met the Egyptian authorities who briefed them about ongoing legislative work on FOA and on anti-terrorism, in particular Mokhles Kotb, Secretary General of the National Council for Human Rights, Mofeed Shebab, State Minister for Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Councils and Councillor Mohamed Al Demerdash from the Social Solidarity Ministry.

Before the meetings, the WG coordinator met with representatives from the EU Delegation in Egypt, as well as Negad El Borei (United Group), Hafez Abu Saeda (EOHR) and Amira Hussein (Friedrich Nauman Foundation).

- A call for participation to hire two consultants to draft the thematic chapters linked to the freedom of association and the fight against terrorism and gender mainstreaming was launched in late May.
- The second Newsletter on Freedom of Association was issued on April 25 2008. It includes information on freedom of association gathered in March and April 2008. This Newsletter has been diffused widely: to the working group members, to EMHRN partners as well as to the Euromed Info Center and the UNHCHR.

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission, DANIDA and the Danish Institute for Human Rights to its work on freedom of association in 2006 and 2007 (work in 2008 was supported by the EU Commission, DANIDA and SIDA)

5.2.2 The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary

The **human rights framework** of this activity is the establishment of an independent and impartial judiciary in the South and East EuroMed region based on international human rights standards.

The **general objective** is the consolidation of networks and groups of actors in South and East Mediterranean societies who are able to influence the judiciaries towards reform.

The **short term objective** is to contribute to the development of spaces for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in order to facilitate the process towards reform.

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The activity involves organising workshops in Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco with the aim of:

- Stimulating debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (by discussing, inter alia, the EMHRN report on Justice in the South and East Mediterranean region, its content and methodology) at local seminars with the participation of representatives of the judiciary (including possible representatives of the ministry of justice), human rights NGOs, lawyers, etc.
- Discussing new developments in the region that serve either to strengthen or to undermine the independence of the judiciary
- Mapping ongoing initiatives (national, intergovernmental, international) on reform of the judiciary and publishing a report in this regard
- Investigating the feasibility and relevance of drafting national reports on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary
- Promoting the writing of national reports where relevant and keeping alive spaces for debate by developing regional exchanges and synergies between civil society actors on advocacy and reform initiatives.

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN achieved its short term objective of contributing to the development of spaces for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary by organising meetings that were widely praised in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and France (Tunisia). The meetings did stimulate debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary with the participation of representatives of the judiciary.

The EMHRN also produced a mapping of ongoing initiatives on the judiciary in the region and stimulated the writing of national reports. The reports will facilitate the organisation of new meetings in the countries mentioned above as well as new countries leading towards the general objective of initiating the consolidation of networks and groups of actors in South and East Mediterranean societies who are able to influence the judiciaries.

In this regard another step was taken due to the fact that the WG was able to define a new work program for the next years pointing in that direction.

The EMHRN did not succeed in organising meetings in Algeria. A planned joint program with Avocat sans Frontières did not materialise due to obstruction by the Algerian authorities; and alternatives had not been identified in the first half of 2008.

Output 2006

- 600 copies of report on Justice in the Eastern and Western Mediterranean reprinted
- 50 representatives of NGOs, lawyers, magistrates and ministry of judiciary discuss the Judiciary in Morocco.
- 100 NGO representatives in the region directly informed about the project
- Internal report from WG meeting in Casablanca
- External report from Justice seminar in Casablanca
- Research process on regional Judiciary reform initiatives initiated
- Contacts established to magistrates involved in developing a regional organisation of magistrates

Output 2007

- 50 representatives of NGOs, lawyers, magistrates and ministry of judiciary discuss the Judiciary in Jordan
- External report from seminar in Amman
- 50 representatives of NGOs, lawyers, magistrates and ministry of judiciary discuss the Judiciary in Lebanon
- External report from seminar in Beirut
- 40 Representatives of NGOs and lawyers discuss the Tunisian Judiciary in Paris.
- External report from seminar in Paris
- Lawyer hired in Morocco to draft the national report on Morocco finalised in 2007 and - published February 2008
- Lawyer hired in Jordan to draft the national report on Jordan - published February 2008
- Lawyer hired in Tunisia to draft the national report on Tunisia - published February 2008
- Lobbying and information visit in Brussels
- Research process on regional Judiciary reform initiatives carried out – Survey published February 2008
- Preparation for WG meeting and Public Seminar at the European Parliament to be held in February 2008
- Contacts established and reinforced with magistrates involved in developing a regional organisation of magistrates
- Contacts established with a range of organisations across the region in order to exchange information, increase networking activities and at longer term develop the capacities of the WG.
- Further work on the Avocat sans Frontière-EMHRN Algeria project
- Contacts established with regional and international organisations and institutions working on the Judiciary

Output 2008

- *Justice working group meeting held in Brussels*
- *Regional seminar on the independence of the Judiciary in the EuroMed region held in the European Parliament*
- *Launch of national report on the independence of the Judiciary in Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia launched at regional seminar in the European Parliament and afterwards widely disseminated*
- *Launch of Report on regional Judiciary reform initiatives in the European Parliament and afterwards widely disseminated*
- *Lawyers hired in Lebanon to draft a national report*

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and debated the Justice project at the General Assembly in May 2006 at a specific workshop.
- Furthermore, the EMHRN employed human rights consultant Sian Lewis-Anthony to research and draft a report on 'Judicial reform initiatives in the EuroMed region'.
- The first meeting of the new EMHRN Working Group on Justice took place in Casablanca on Friday 10 November 2007 in cooperation with WG members OMDH and AMDH. The agenda of the meeting included the following main points: presentation of members; presentation of the Network and the WG method to the members; presentation and discussion of the current project; discussion of future perspective for the WG.
- On 11 and 12 November, still in Casablanca, the WG organised a seminar on 'The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary – Morocco'. The seminar was attended by approximately 65 persons, including representatives of the Ministry of Justice and other governmental bodies, judges, lawyers, representatives of Moroccan NGOs and international organisations as well as the members of the WG on Justice. The program included several presentations of the previous work done by the WG on justice; problems and challenges faced by the Moroccan judiciary; the independence of prosecution; the Moroccan judiciary in the Maghreb context. During the debates the participants discussed the situation of the Moroccan judiciary and the main reasons for its lack of independence. The drafting of a national report on the independence and impartiality of the Moroccan judiciary was also discussed.

Before and after the meeting contacts were made with several Moroccan lawyers and academics in order to identify an expert responsible for the drafting of a national report on Morocco. Subsequently, Mr. Abdelaziz Nouaydi, was hired in the course of 2007 to draft a report on the independence of the Moroccan judiciary.

- The EMHRN reprinted its successful report on 'Justice in the Eastern and Western Mediterranean' to be distributed at the national seminars. It also started preparation for the seminar on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, in Jordan, on 13-14 January 2007.
- The EMHRN also became partner to Avocats sans Frontières, Belgium, on a project aimed at providing judicial assistance to victims of human rights violations in Algeria, and at strengthening Algerian lawyers work in this regard. Project implementation was blocked as EMHRN and ASF mission teams did not receive necessary entry visa to Algeria and the project later had to be abandoned.
- EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi and EC member Michel Tubiana attended the CIHRS conference on 'The Role of Judges in Political Reform in Egypt and the Arab World', organized by CIHRS on 1-3 April 2006 in order to establish contacts with magistrates and judges in the Arab region involved in creating an independent, regional professional association.

2007

- On 13-14 January the EMHRN organised a seminar in Amman dealing with the issue of the independence and impartiality of Jordan's Judiciary that was co-organised with the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS), member of the Justice WG. It was held under the patronage of and opened by the

president of Jordan's High Judicial Council. The program included the following topics: The independence and impartiality of the judiciary; the independence and impartiality of the Jordanian judiciary: Problems and challenges; The role of the Jordanian judiciary in promoting and protecting human rights: achievements and obstacles; The current state of reforms regarding the Jordanian judiciary; For a national report on the independence of the judiciary in Jordan? Each session included one or several presentations with a large amount of time left for the debate.

The seminar gathered about 50 participants: representatives of the Ministry of Justice and main judicial institutions; numerous judges and prosecutors; lawyers, including representatives of the Bar Association; academics; representatives of local NGOs, international institutions and embassies (including the EU delegation); several members of the Justice Working Group from other countries than Jordan; journalists and media persons. All participants had been asked to consult the EMHRN report *Justice in the South and East of the Mediterranean Region* beforehand.

The main aim of the Amman seminar – opening spaces for free dialogue on the issue of the independence in Jordan – was fulfilled. Participants discussed freely and openly a large number of issues affecting the independence of the Jordanian judiciary, touching upon technical issues (training of judges, limited impact of reforms), but also political constraints (the preeminent role of the King; the interferences from the executive in a number of high-profile cases) and societal features (corruption, the tribal component of Jordanian society which impacts on the judiciary).

Here again there was a high level of interest and involvement from the participants, including from official actors, especially the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council.

The seminar paved the way for further actions that will increase the role of civil society in the promotion of justice reform in Jordan. The participants strongly supported the drafting of a national report on the independence of the Jordanian judiciary as a useful tool for members of the justice system and the civil society at large. Hence the national report was drafted in the course of 2007 by two lawyers, Zaha Al Majali and Omar Qaddoura under the supervision of the ACHRS. The report was published in February 2008. It is available on the EMHRN website and is currently (April 2008) being distributed in Jordan. As is the case in Morocco, this report will be used as a reference document by the civil society in its efforts to lobby and influence future reforms in the field of the judiciary.

In addition, the seminar reached out beyond the participants themselves as it was subject to a series of articles in various Jordanian newspapers.

- On 10-11 March 2007 the Beirut seminar looked into the issue of the independence and impartiality of the Lebanese Judiciary. It was co-organised with the Lebanese members of the Justice WG, Solida, the Palestinian Human Rights Network and individual member, Georges Assaf. The program of the seminar included the following sessions: The independence and impartiality of the judiciary: introductory session; The independence and impartiality of the Lebanese judiciary: Problems and challenges; Exceptional courts in Lebanon; For a national report on the independence of the judiciary in Lebanon As was the case in Jordan, each session included one or several presentations followed by an open discussion.

The seminar gathered about 50 participants: representatives of Lebanese judicial institutions; judges and prosecutors from various courts; lawyers, including representatives of the Bar Association; academics; representatives of local NGOs, international institutions and embassies; several members of the Justice Working Group from other countries than Lebanon; several journalists and media persons. All participants had been asked to read the EMHRN report *Justice in the South and East of the Mediterranean Region* beforehand.

The aim of opening spaces for free dialogue on the issue of the independence in Lebanon was fulfilled. Participants to the Beirut meeting discussed freely, openly and very actively numerous issues concerning the Lebanese judiciary and its independence. In particular, sensitive issues such as the consequences of the long-time Syrian occupation on the justice system and the existence and numerous exceptional and religious courts were dealt with at length.

As was the case in Amman, there was a strong attendance and a high level of interest and involvement from the Lebanese participants.

The seminar in Beirut was the starting point for further actions aimed at increasing the capacity of the civil society to effectively promote and lobby for justice reform in Lebanon. The participants supported the drafting of a national report on the independence of the Lebanese judiciary as a useful tool for members of the justice system and the civil society at large.

- On 8-9 September the EMHRN held a seminar in Paris dedicated to the independence of the Tunisian judiciary. It dealt with the following topics: The independence and impartiality of the judiciary: brief introduction to the criteria related to the independence of the judiciary and conclusions of the EMHRN 2005 regional report on Justice; The independence and impartiality of the Tunisian judiciary: Problems and challenges; The independence of the Tunisian Bar: principles and realities; The current state of reforms of the Tunisian judiciary; For a national report on the independence of the judiciary in Tunisia.

The Seminar was held in Paris, as it due to state censorship could not be organised in Tunisia. It gathered about 50 participants the first day and 35 the second day. The first day was held in a conference room within the French Senate. The participants were mainly lawyers and NGO representative from Tunisia as well as Tunisians based in France; representatives from various French ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), institutions (including judges association) and NGOs as well as representatives of international organisations (EU, UNDP). The Portuguese EU Presidency was represented through its embassy in Paris.

The aim of opening spaces for free dialogue on the issue of the independence in Tunisia was only partially fulfilled, due to the fact that the meeting had to be held outside Tunisia. In addition although they had been invited, the Tunisian Ministry of Justice did not attend the meeting, nor did it send judges to represent it. Furthermore, independent judges from the Association des magistrats tunisiens (AMT- bureau légitime) were prohibited from leaving Tunisia to attend the seminar in Paris. For these reasons no Tunisian judge was able to attend the meeting.

With these limitations, it was nevertheless possible to gather more than 50 participants, mostly lawyers and NGO representatives, who succeeded in discussing the current state of the judiciary in Tunisia, including the lack of freedom of association for Tunisian judges, and to address issues related to the current and future justice reforms in the country.

As an unexpected outcome, the hostile attitude of the Tunisian authorities¹⁰, shows how difficult it is to openly and freely discuss matters related to the judiciary in Tunisia – and stresses therefore need to support any spaces for free dialogue, how tiny they might be. It is the assessment that the report on the independence and impartiality of the Tunisian judiciary produced by the WG in the aftermath of the seminar in Paris became a useful tool in that direction. However, in view of the pressure the local civil society is placed under, it is unlikely that large scale promotion and lobby activities regarding the issue of the independence of the judiciary can be developed and implemented in a near future.

Following the seminar, Ayachi Hammami, a Tunisian lawyer, was hired to draft the report on the independence of the Tunisian judiciary.

- On 8-9 October 2007, the WG coordinator and Ms Sian Lewis Anthony, author of the Survey on Justice Reform Initiatives in the EuroMed Region, had a series of meetings at the European Commission in Brussels. These aimed at completing the information gathered by Ms Lewis Anthony for her Survey and, more generally, to meet Commission representatives dealing with the Justice issue in relation with the Southern Mediterranean countries. Meetings were held at EuropeAid, DG Relex and DG Justice, Liberties and Security.

¹⁰ Not only the authorities refused to cooperate, but the semi-official Association tunisienne des jeunes avocats (ATJA) insisted on attending the seminar, although they were not invited. Upon common agreement between the organisers and the other Tunisian participants, it was decided not to allow them to enter the conference room, as their main objectives were obviously to check on the other participants and to disturb the discussions.

- In the course of 2007, contacts were established and reinforced with magistrates, especially in Egypt, involved in developing a regional organisation of magistrates. These contacts and exchanges led to two of these magistrates being invited to attend the Brussels meetings in February 2008 (to which they were subsequently prohibited to attend).
- In 2007, contacts were made with a series of organisations or institutions, including MEDEL, International Association of Judges, International Commission of Jurists, UNDP (at various levels), Transparency International, and the UNHCHR. The aim of these contacts was to exchange information on respective Justice programs with the medium term objective to increase networking activities and develop the capacities of the WG. Some of these organisations have been asked to consider the possibility of becoming resource organisations for the Justice WG.
- Preparations were made in the course of 2007 for a WG seminar to be held in Brussels in February 2008 together with a public seminar aimed at officially launching the four reports produced by the WG (see above). Contacts were made with various political groups within the EU Parliament for that purpose.

First half of 2008

The working group met in Brussels on 9-10 February 2008. It was its second meeting since the working group was re-established in September 2006. The WG members evaluated the results of the 2006-07 projects and discussed its continuation and extension in the coming 2008-09 phase. It was decided both to follow-up on the activities in the countries already covered (Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon) and to extend the work to cover two additional countries: Egypt and Algeria. In the case of Egypt, the work undertaken will have a regional aspect focusing on supporting the establishment of an association for judges within the Arab region. Additionally, the working group decided also to work on the issue of the fight against terrorism, both in the South and in the North, and its implication on the justice systems of the region.

Following the meeting, the working group organised an Open Seminar on 11 February in the European Parliament and with the support of the President of the European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights. During this seminar, the four reports on Justice published by the working group were presented and the presentations were then followed by a debate. Beyond the working group members, the seminar gathered representatives of the EU institutions, Member States and southern States and NGOs based in Brussels. In the afternoon, the working group made a short presentation of its work and its outcome at the meeting of the European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights. The reports were widely distributed during this meeting as well.

The four new reports of the Working Group that were launched in Brussels are available in French and English on the EMHRN website, together with interviews of their respective authors:

- Survey on Justice Reform Initiatives in the EuroMed Region
- Report on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in Morocco
- Report on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in Jordan
- Report on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in Tunisia

The distribution of national reports took place through the local members of the WG in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia. Targeted institutions included Prime Ministers, Ministers of Justice, high ranking officials within the Ministry of Justice, judicial institutions, MPs, judge associations, bar associations, civil society organisations.

Distribution of the regional survey took place through the secretariat and, at national level, through the local members of the WG. Targeted readers included international organisations and institutions, EU institutions, Member States, other donors, NGOs and civil society organisations.

- Official contacts have been taken with the International Association of Judges (IAJ) and the International Commissions of Jurists (ICJ) with the purpose of establishing formal relationships between these organisations and the Justice working group. Contacts have also been made with other organizations or institutions, including the UNHCHR.
- The EMHRN attended the Euro-Mediterranean Seminar on ensuring respect for human rights while countering terrorism in accordance with international law, Prague, June 16-17.

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of SIDA, the EU Commission and Belgium's Ministry of Justice to its work on Justice in 2006 and 2007 (its work in the first half of 2008 is sponsored by DANIDA and SIDA)

5.2.3 Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

The **human rights framework** of this activity is the full implementation of human rights values and international standards relating to women's rights and the achievement of gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region enabling men and women to enjoy equal human rights and participate on equal terms in the development of their societies.

The **general objective** is for key networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region to take the lead in the process of achieving gender equality by integrating gender mainstreaming into their work.

The **short term** objectives are to:

- Enhance knowledge of gender mainstreaming so that it becomes an integrated part of the human rights agenda in the region;
- Strengthen cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations, and networks, to promote gender equality within their organisations and in public policies;
- Increase the integration of women's rights groups and gender awareness into 'mainstream' human rights work;
- Increase knowledge about key issues pertaining to gender discrimination in the region.

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

- Organising two working group meetings with the participation of the main networks in the region working on gender issues and women's rights, as well as generalist human rights NGOs in order to discuss, monitor and implement the following:
- Producing a training kit on gender mainstreaming to be used by local NGOs
- Two sub regional training courses on gender mainstreaming
- Gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN organisations and executive bodies
- Researching and drafting a report on violence against women in migration
- Producing policy recommendations and doing advocacy on key issues relevant to gender equality in the region (based *inter alia* on an update of the EMHRN report on Integrating Women's Rights in the EMP).

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN took significant steps forward in promoting gender equality in public policies in the EuroMed region through systematic and successful lobbying of Euromed regional state cooperation regarding the Istanbul Action Plan on the Role of Women in Society.

Other work on gender issues was hampered by the fact that the several changes in staff took place while implementing the activities.

However, the EMHRN took concrete steps forward in promoting gender mainstreaming by initiating gender mainstreaming of EMHRN research reports, and by organising its first gender mainstreaming courses leading to the finalising of a gender mainstreaming kit. It also initiated a new program for the WG focussing on the Istanbul action plan and continuing gender mainstreaming activities within the EMHRN membership.

Output 2006

- EMHRN report on 'Achieving Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: Change is Possible and Necessary' forwarded to 3.700 subscribers of the EMHRN news service, distributed to the EU institutions and up-loaded on the EMHRN Website
- EMHRN recommendations included in the Istanbul Plan of Action on the Role of Women in Society
- 100 government and inter-governmental representatives directly informed about the project
- 15 members of EMHRN working group on Women's rights and gender mainstreaming identified
- Setting-up of an EMHRN antenna in Amman coordinating the EMHRN's regional project on gender

2007

- EMHRN comments on the Istanbul Action Plan adopted and disseminated
- Two training seminars on gender mainstreaming organised (Beirut and Paris)
- Two working group meetings held (Rabat and Paris)

Gender mainstreaming kit finalised

First half of 2008

- Working group meeting held in Cairo
- Awareness raising meetings on the Istanbul action plan organised in Cairo with Egyptian NGOs and European officials
- Participation in EU follow-up meetings to the Istanbul Action Plan
- Research on Violence against women in migration initiated (in cooperation with the Migration working group)
- Gender mainstreaming of EMHRN report on Freedom of association, statutes and by-laws promoted
- Preparation of the first gender mainstreaming course for member organisation
- Preparation of awareness raising meeting on Istanbul Action Plan in Jordan

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and debated the project during a specific workshop at the General Assembly in May 2006. Following the GA the EMHRN employed a coordinator (September 2006) and set-up an office in Amman at its member organisation SIGI. It identified an interim program and members of the Gender WG.
- During autumn 2006 the EMHRN chose to invest many resources in influencing the outcome of the EMP Ministerial meeting on women that took place in Istanbul 14-15 November 2007:

The EMHRN published a follow-up report to its past publication on women in the EuroMed¹¹ focussing on best practices in the region and entitled 'Achieving Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: Change is possible and necessary'. The report was disseminated to EMHRN members, the media and relevant persons at the EU institutions and EMP countries

Together with the launch of the publication the EMHRN conducted an advocacy mission in Brussels on 6-9 November 2006 with the participation of Lina Qurah (SIGI-Jordan), Ruba Akkiela (EMHRN coordinator), Marit Floe Joergensen (EMHRN program director) and Sandrine Grenier (Advocacy Director). The delegation met with the Jordanian and Moroccan Ambassadors, with representatives of the European Commission (Relex and EuropeAid) and of EU Member States (chaired by representatives from the Finnish Presidency) as well as a number of MEPs. The purpose of the advocacy tour was to lobby for the inclusion of EMHRN recommendations in the Plan of Action on strengthening the role of women in society to be adopted at the Istanbul Euro-Med Ministerial Conference.

In parallel, the EMHRN Jordanian members as well as other women's rights and generalist human rights NGOs were addressed in Jordan to support the EMHRN recommendations. Seven organizations signed the papers and sent them to EMHRN office in Amman.

¹¹ 'Integrating Women's Rights into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership', EMHRN, 2003

EMHRN Moroccan members sent a joint letter to the Moroccan Prime Minister asking for a more progressive stand on the issue of the Plan of Action, corresponding to Morocco's recent positive development in the field of gender equality. This letter was published widely in the Moroccan media and created a lot of attention to the matter.

Finally, the EMHRN organized a parallel workshop at the Civil Forum in Marrakech in cooperation with the IEMED (Spain) with more than 80 participants adopting a statement of the civil forum - prepared by the EMHRN – addressed to the participants at the ministerial meeting in Istanbul.

The EMHRN was present at the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference in Istanbul with Lina Qurah who also represented the Euro-Med NGO Platform (together with Mourad Allal and Souhayr Belhassan). Marit Floe Joergensen and EC member Rabea Naciri were also present. The EMHRN report and contribution was welcomed by all officials and the EMHRN urged the EU to insist on some minimum standards for the Plan of Action as well as for the MEPs to be involved in the follow-up. The Finnish Presidency specially thanked the EMHRN for its active role in the process, and referred to the EMHRN report in its concluding speech. Many of the EMHRN recommendations are in the Plan of Action which was adopted in Istanbul.

2007

- In 2007 the final version of the report Achieving Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region was finalised and disseminated in February.. In March the EC approved an evaluation and position paper on the Istanbul Action Plan that afterwards was published on the EMHRN web site and disseminated to relevant stakeholders.
- On 8 March a press release and the Gender report was sent to contacts and media including to the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly (APEM) asking them to raise the issue of gender equality at the APEM on 16/17 March and to follow-up on the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan.

Meanwhile an expert (Lina Abu Habib) was contracted to write-up a training kit on gender mainstreaming.

- The women's rights and gender working group meeting took place in Rabat on April 2-3 2007. At the meeting in Rabat, the working group discussed a draft proposal for the training kit in order to include them in the first seminar to be conducted in Lebanon in May 2007. They also discussed future plans of the WG with regard to gender mainstreaming of EMHRN activities, promoting gender mainstreaming within generalist human rights NGOs, and the work on the Istanbul action plan.
- The first sub-regional training seminar was conducted by the EMHRN in cooperation with Lina Abu Habib in Beirut on 26-27 May with the participation of EMHRN member organisation (the meeting was facilitated by EMHRN member PHRO). The training was an opportunity to test the training kit in order to adapt it as much as possible to the needs of NGOs.

Furthermore, WG member Atika Al-Taif had the occasion to test the training kit at the EMHRN Summer School in Cyprus.

- Regretfully, the EMHRN had to ask its coordinator to resign by 31 August in order to ensure the proper continuation of the project. The EMHRN made an agreement with Samah Said Helmy to work as the WG coordinator for the rest of the year.

Samah Said Helmy and Marc Schade-Poulsen conducted a second regional gender mainstreaming training workshop in Paris on 28-29 November where the training kit was tested again and some minor amendments were made.

The Gender working group met on 30 November to 1 December in Paris and arrived at a constructive work plan: Proactively suggesting board members of our member organisation to conduct gender mainstreaming courses in their organisations; conduct a gender audit of the EMHRN and establish a strategy for gender mainstreaming in that regard; research and publish a report on the Istanbul Action plan to be finalised before the 2009 Ministerial follow-up meeting to Istanbul; build-up of working group members' capacity to monitor the ENP from a gender perspective.

- Lina Al Quarah (SIDI-Jordan) participated on behalf of the EuroMed NGO Platform and the EMHRN in the Istanbul follow-up meeting which took place at the EMP high official level in Brussels on 22 October.
- Lina Alqurah was later employed as the new gender coordinator of the EMHRN.

First half of 2008

- In the first half of 2008 the antenna of the EMHRN was moved to EMHRN member Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)
- During that period the WG on Gender (through Fatma Boumaied) worked with the Working group on Migration and Refugees to ensure gender mainstreaming of the study on Violence against women in migration. Furthermore, the gender working group nominated a representative, Yamina Raho, to the Steering Committee on the report on Freedom of Association.
- A Concept Paper addressing the Network's initiative on follow-up and monitoring implementation of the Istanbul Action was finalised for fund raising purposes.
- A solidarity letter was prepared for Fatma Ksila, Secretary General of CRLDHT and a member of the Gender Working Group, and her friend, Samia Abbou member of the ALTLT, after they were brutally assaulted by the political police in Sousse, Tunisia, on 18 February 2008.
- An Open Letter commemorating 8 March was also drafted and addressed to the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner and ENP countries representatives.
- On 9-11 May the WG met in Cairo. During the meeting it discussed the developments and updates regarding women's rights and equality in the members' countries (France, Israel, Greece, Jordan, Tunisia, Finland, Morocco and Syria) and current projects and activities of members of the group, developments within the Euro-Med Partnership regarding gender; Tenders and calls for proposals addressing the implementation of Istanbul Action Plan; current EMHRN activities; Violence against migrant women Study and the Second EMHRN Review Report of Freedom of Association; the preparation process of the Shadow Report on monitoring implementation of Istanbul Action Plan; and the ways forward with regards to ongoing activities in the region.

The meeting that unfortunately was not allowed to be held in a public meeting room by the Egyptian authorities was preceded by a visit of an EMHRN delegation (Nafsika Papanikolatos, Attika Ettaif, Lina Alqurah and Marc Schade-Poulsen) to a number of women's rights NGOs and to the Egyptian Council for Women. The purpose was to dialogue with the NGOs about their work and about the issues at stake regarding the Istanbul Action Plan.

- On 11 May the EMHRN also organised a Regional Planning and Coordination Meeting on the Istanbul Action Plan with the participation of the WG members, Egyptian NGOs, the EU Delegation and representatives of EU member states.

Following the WG meeting the EMHRN was represented and made inputs at two meetings regarding the Istanbul Action Plan, i.e.

1. Euromed – A Region on the Move - Strengthening Civil Society and Gender Equality in the Euromed Region on June 2-4 2008, Bonn, Germany. This international conference was organised by WOMNET to discuss the role of the EU and civil society participation in democratic reform processes and the advancement of gender equality in the Mediterranean Neighbouring countries of the European Union.
2. 'Follow-up to the Istanbul conclusions. Thematic Ad Hoc Committee 2008, Participation of Women in Political Life in the Euro Mediterranean Partnership' organised by the European Commission in Brussels on June 12 2008.

In connection to the latter meeting the EMHRN organised coordination and lobby meetings with several representatives of the EU Commission and EU member states on the question of the follow-up to the Istanbul Action plan.

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission and DANIDA to its work on gender and women's rights in 2006 and 2007 (in the first half of 2008 its activities were supported by DANIDA and SIDA).

5.2.4 Human Rights Education

The **human rights framework** of this project is to ensure the dissemination of human rights values to new generations in the EuroMed region through educational activities.

The **general objective** is to strengthen human rights NGO networking in the field of education and to develop a sustainable human rights network of young NGO representatives related to the mainstream human rights movement.

The **short term objective** is to:

- Organise a Summer School on Human Rights and Democratic Reform for 'future decision makers' in the Arab region as a joint project of key NGOs working on human rights education.
- Increase networking among human rights NGOs dealing with human rights education (HRE) in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

1. Produce a report
 - a. Assessing and evaluating human rights education in the region, including identifying which organisations and institutions work on HRE, what the content of the courses are, which methodologies are used etc.
 - b. Identifying beneficiaries/stakeholder (representatives of the youth population, members of political parties, young NGO workers, NGOs working in the field of human rights) and their wishes and needs for human rights education
2. Organise working group (WG) meetings with key EuroMed HRE NGOs aimed at preparing the report, discussing its conclusions and, on this basis, identifying the needs and the added value of the proposed Summer School.
3. Use the WG meeting to identify the format, content, educational methodologies and location of the Summer school and evaluate it after completion, and conduct discussion about HRE and policies in this regard.
4. Launch a call for participation through EMHRN members' channels (newsletters, websites etc) and organise a Summer School with 30 participants
5. Seek to establish and maintain an alumni network of participants at the Summer School.
6. Increase the visibility of young people within human rights and civil society groups.

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN achieved its short term objectives of organising a successful Summer School for young people including a strong participation of the WG members. It also published a report assessing and evaluating human rights education in the region. The Summer School took-up the major part of the WG's time and networking took in particular place around that activity. Discussions were opened as to whether the HRE WG should be the only site for EMHRN work with young people.

Output 2006

- *A draft research report about HRE provided by NGOs in the EuroMed region*
- *Internal report from the first meeting of the HRE WG*

Output 2007

- Three WG meetings in Malta, Cyprus and Ankara
- AnEMHRN Summer School (July 2007) organised by the WG members called "Youth participation in the EuroMed region" in Cyprus involving 60 NGOs from the EuroMed region – in cooperation with Cypriot NGOs
- A video documentary on the summer school values and objectives.
- 124 NGO representatives either involved or directly informed about the project as well as EU, Council of Europe, Arab league representatives.
- The creation of an informal alumni network
- A summer school report called "Tips for Future Summer Schools" and a public evaluation report.
-

Output first half of 2008

- A working group meeting in Istanbul
- Coordinating meeting of NGOs organising Summer Schools in the EuroMed region
- Preparation of the third EMHRN Summer School in Istanbul initiated in cooperation with Turkish NGOs
- Reports from the second Summer School and about NGO work on HRE in the EuroMed finalised

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and debated the HRE project in a specific workshop at the General Assembly in May 2006. Prior to the GA the EMHRN had organised a steering group meeting in Copenhagen to launch work. In addition it identified two experts to carry out a study of NGO's HRE work in the EuroMed region.
- The researchers did their field work over summer and a first draft was presented at the first WG meeting that was held in Copenhagen on 10-12 November 2006, where it regrettably, became clear that a good deal of work was still needed before arriving at a satisfactory result.

At the WG meeting the members were introduced to the EMHRN and the working group concept, the work of the previous WG on HRE, and on that basis the planning of the summer school. The meeting was welcomed by the participants who agreed to draft a concept paper about their mandate to be presented to the EC.

- Moataz El Fegjery, CIHRS and member of the EC, represented the EMHRN at a conference on 'Human Rights Education, the World Program and National Efforts, Cairo 28-30 November 2006 organised by The Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE)

2007

- The WG met again on 23-25 February in Malta and continued discussions of its mandate, and of the report on NGO HRE work in the region; it continued exchanges around HRE methodologies, and discussed the future Summer School through presentation of experiences of the Balkan Human Rights Network and MEDAC, Academy for Diplomatic studies; it also met representatives of the EuroMed youth platform.
- Regarding the Summer School a selection committee of participants was selected (Louis Frankenthaler (Public Committee against Torture), Antonia Papadopoulou (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Lubna Dawani (Sisterhood is Global Institute) and Mohammed Sarsak (Amman Center for Human Rights Studies). Antonia Papadopolous (Greek Helsinki Monitor) and David Cassar (MEDAC) were assigned the role of Summer school coordinators. Finally, a resource group (Valerie Duffy (80:20 Ireland), Natasha Shawarib (SIGI-Jordan), Aida Vesic and Snjezana Ivanic (BHRN) established a compilation of documents for a summer school resource.
- The '2007 Summer School' was held in Limassol, Cyprus from 23-29 July 2007. The EMHRN had received several hundred applications, in particular from the Arab World.
- The Summer School gathered 32 participants, 9 trainers, and 3 lecturers. 4 organisers from the Human Rights working group were in charge of the coordination of the event and the program. Most working group

members were also present to train participants, meet participants and other human rights organisations. Finally, EMHRN members from other working groups and from the EMHRN Executive committee attended the Summer School as trainers.

- Before the meeting participants signed a Memorandum of understanding agreeing to undertake preparatory work for the Summer School, and fully participating in its agenda and follow up activities.
- Cypriots participants from the Turkish and Greek communities were invited to participate and exchange their different experiences and ideas; and a fieldwork local trip was organized to the Northern and Southern part of Cyprus in order to increase the participants' understanding of the situation in Cyprus and to meet with various human rights organisations active in the reconciliation process between the two communities.
- The Summer School program aimed at using interactive learning methodologies with a focus on equality in learning between trainers and participants; conferring also time for participants to share their work experiences and methodologies in the field of human rights in self conducted workshops.
- A specific session on follow-up was organised on the last day of the Summer School, during which participants and organisers discussed concrete and realistic follow-up activities, including the creation of a Yahoo group where alumni can stay in touch, exchange information about potential collaborations, and training, scholarships and internship opportunities;
- A summer school report called 'Tips for Future Summer Schools' and a Summer School evaluation report was published by the HRE and youth WG in November 2007.
- Finally a short documentary on the summer school was produced and launched on the EMHRN's web site. It was presented *inter alia* at the 'Evaluation Meeting of HRE sub regional training courses' organised by the Partnership Council of Europe- European Commission (EuroMed Youth) in Alexandria, 29-31 October 2007 in cooperation with the Swedish Institute and the Anna Lindh Foundation.
- Two representatives from Syria attended the summer school; based on the training methods delivered by the summer school a human rights training in Syria was organized by the CDF for 10 participants.
- Following the Summer School the WG met on 26-28 October in Ankara. The agenda included the evaluation of the summer school, discussion and recommendations for the next publications of the group and the next activities with regard to youth and HRE. The Working group welcomed new members at their meeting: Rita Rocca from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Nabil Dolmayer from the CDF and Omar Qadora from the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies.
- The working group members also met with Turkish human rights organisations and educators from the Human Rights Agenda Association, Amnesty International, Bilgi University, the IHOP platform and Community volunteers Foundation.
- Following the meeting a discussion paper on potential strategies to connect with youth in the region was drafted by EC member Colm Regan. The paper was sent to the WG members for their contributions and has launched a discussion within the EC about EMHRN work on young people which is still ongoing.
- On the basis of the field work and survey questionnaire on NGO HRE work in the EuroMed region done by researchers contracted in 2006 Valerie Duffy and Colm Regan (80:20 Acting for a better world, Ireland) were appointed by the working group to undertake the writing the final report.
- Meanwhile a Manual on Human Rights Education Training based on the Summer School had been commissioned from an expert in HRE. The Expert was present during the full duration of the Summer School. His main tasks included: having discussions and conducting interviews with the Summer School participants and trainers; participating to the workshops and; getting acquainted with the methodologies, trainings activities and exercises used during the Summer School;

- Due to delays linked to the non respect of contracts by the consultant the publication of the Human rights manual had to be postponed until the end of s2008.

First half of 2008

- The Human Rights Education and Youth working group meeting took place in Istanbul on 1-2 March. The main objectives were to plan for the coming activities, to identify means to support HRE culture and activities within the EMHRN, to explore engagements with youth workers and activists in the region and to prepare the 2008 Summer school. The HRE working group welcomed a new member: Mu'ayyad Mehyar who is in charge of HRE at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.
- It was decided that the Summer school would take place in Silivre, a district of [Istanbul](#) near the Marmara Sea in [Turkey](#), from July 21-28 2008, and should focus on Conflicts and its impact on Human Rights while being designed to share HRE methodologies. It was agreed to organise the Summer School with the Youth Unit at the Bilgi University, Community Volunteers, Women for Women's Human Rights and Amnesty International Turkey in close cooperation with the participation of the EMHRN member IHD (Human Rights Association). In order to do so, a full day meeting was organised with these organisations.
- A selection Committee (Omar Qadora, Baya Gacemi, Zahra Radwan and Antonia Papadopoulou) was elected and working group members agreed to take active part in all phases of preparation and running of the Summer School.
- A regional coordination meeting also took place with the participation of Summer School organisers in the EuroMed region, the EMHRN, the Balkan Network for Human Rights, 80:20, Medac and the CIHRS. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences and to explore areas for potential mutual co-operation and sharing.
- Meanwhile, discussions continued in the EC about the work of the EMHRN on young people and of the HRE WG in this regard. A discussion meeting was organised on 26 June with Kamel Jendoubi, Colm Regan, Amina Lemrini and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

Finally the report on Human Rights Education in the Euro-Mediterranean region: Issues and Challenges' was finalized and made available on the EMHRN web site. It reviews and evaluates activities, needs and barriers of HRE in the EuroMed region. *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA to its work on HRE in 2006 and 2007 (HRE work in 2008 has been supported by DANIDA and SIDA).*

5.3 Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

The overall objective of these activities is to contribute to setting human rights at the heart of developments and conflicts in the region where human beings' security are at risk. The aim is to develop strategic interventions in this regard while increasing EMHRN's members' capacity through networking activities.

5.3.1 Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

The **human rights framework** is the full implementation of international human rights standards and international humanitarian law relating to conflict prevention, management and resolution and with regard to the Middle East conflict and Israeli occupation.

The **general objective** is to create a broad regional civil society advocacy forum aimed at raising awareness about the need for the EU, the ENP and EMP governments to set respect for human rights and international humanitarian law at the heart of peace promotion.

The **short term objective** is to develop further the activities of the WG on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians and a critical human rights and civil society approach towards EU policies in the region

- Researching and publicising an Annual Human Rights Review on the EU and Israel

- Advocating for the recommendations of the review in relation to the EU institutions and individual members states and raising awareness about the centrality of human rights in solving the conflict and ending occupation
- Strengthening the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians so that it becomes a key vehicle for human rights lobbying
- Developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved in the project to work on the EU institutions (their organisation and functioning) and their policies.

Activities 2006-2007 according to Work Programme

The activity involves:

- Bi-annual working group meetings and strengthening the Working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians so that it becomes a key vehicle for human rights lobbying
- Researching and publicising an Annual Human Rights Review on the EU and Israel and developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved in the project to work on the EU institutions (their organisation and functioning) and their policies
- Advocating for the recommendations in relation to the EU institutions and individual members states and raising awareness about the centrality of human rights in solving the conflict and ending occupation
- This core activity will be supplemented and supported by missions and reports when deemed relevant and activities with the general long term perspective of setting human rights at the heart of conflict prevention, management and solution.

Summary of Achievements

Until July 2007, the EMHRN continued development of the Activities of the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians by organising bi-annual WG meetings, publicising an annual report on the EU and Israel, EU advocacy and missions. It also developed activities for strengthening the capacity of member organisations to work on the EU institutions. However, the EMHRN regretfully had to down scale its activities significantly during 11 months starting from July 2007 when the coordinator of the WG stopped her assignment with the EMHRN. The EMHRN did not have the resources to immediately replace the coordinator and when resources were identified it took time to find a qualified replacement. Nevertheless, the WG proved its sustainability by continuing to conduct activities 'on its own'. It also reconfirmed that the added value of the EMHRN WG lies in doing EU advocacy work. In that regard, the EMHRN decided to locate an advocacy coordinator for the PIP work in Brussels instead of Copenhagen. The EMHRN WG on PIP was up running fully in July 2008.

Output 2006

- *Two Working group meetings*
- *EMHRN Annual review disseminated to 3.400 subscribers and forwarded in hard copy versions to more than 360 key agents of the EMP (Arabic, French, English and Hebrew)*
- *More than 80 key agents of the EMP (representatives of EU institutions, of EU member state governments, of civil society and Members of Parliaments) directly addressed regarding the findings of the Annual review*
- *3400 subscribers received EMHRN statements on the situation in Israel and OPT following the war in Lebanon.*
- *Statements on EU-Israel relations, on the occasion of Association Council meetings and the first meeting of the EU-Israel informal working group on Human Rights*
- *Participation of PIP WG members in a public hearing on "Human rights in the Neighbourhood Action Plans of Israel and Egypt" of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament*
- *Draft shadow report on Israel's human rights behaviour*
- *EMHRN mission to Israel and the West Bank*

Output 2007

- *Regular WG meeting and two ad hoc meetings (Berlin and Jerusalem)*
- *Training seminars on the European Neighbourhood Policy (Tel Aviv and Ramallah)*
- *Public seminar on the European Neighbourhood policy (Tel Aviv)*
- *EMHRN third Annual review disseminated to 3.400 subscribers (English version)*
- *EMHRN report on seminar on European Neighbourhood Policy disseminated to 3.400 subscribers (English version)*
- *EMHRN mission to Gaza, July 2007*
- *EMHRN lobbying mission with Israeli and Palestinian NGO participation to Brussels*
- *4 EMHRN statements*

Output first half of 2008

- *One working group meeting in Brussels*
- *EMHRN opening of a coordinator vacancy on Israel, Palestine and Palestinians in Brussels*
- *5 EMHRN statements*

2006

- The EMHRN launched the hard copy version of its second annual report on human rights in EU-Israel relations and promoted its findings during two advocacy tours in the Netherlands 2-5 April and Germany 5-8 April with the participation of EMHRN PIP WG members Orna Kohn (Adalah), Nina Attallah (Al-Haq), Lior Eliasaf-Gurfinkel (PCATI), review writer Susan Rockwell (Mattin Group, West Bank), and EMHRN coordinator Marita Roos. The mission to the Netherlands was coordinated with the United Civilians for Peace (UCP) and the team met with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MPs and civil society organisations. In Berlin the team met with representatives of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MPs, researchers and civil society organisations.
- Following these visits members of the PIP working group met in the margins of the General Assembly where a main item discussed was the drafting of a new shadow report for UCP concerning Israel's human rights behaviour including measuring of progress and set-back through indicators.
- The EMHRN was contacted informally by the Austrian Presidency before the first meeting of the informal EU-Israel Working Group on human rights in June. PIP WG members prepared some points which were passed to the Presidency, the Commission and other Member States before this meeting.
- On 9 June PIP WG members worked together to write an open letter on the occasion of the Association Council between the EU and Israel held on 13 June. The letter, signed by the EMHRN President, was directed to the foreign ministers of EU Member States, to Javier Solana and to the Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner. The EMHRN brought up 9 human rights issues in Israel and the OPT and made recommendations on each issue.
- On 16-18 June the WG met in Brussels where it – apart from its ordinary meeting - received training on the European Institutions and how to promote human rights within EU-Israel relations, and met with Commission and Council representatives.
- On 19 June Orna Kohn (Adalah), Jessica Montell (B'Tselem) and Moataz El Fegeiry (CIHRS) and Sandrine Grenier (EMHRN Brussels) appeared in a public hearing on "Human rights in the Neighbourhood Action Plans of Israel and Egypt" of the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament.
- During summer 2007 EMHRN secretariat in cooperation with the WG members drafted the shadow report on Israel's human rights behaviour and EMHRN members in Israel, the OPT, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Europe negotiated a joint statement on the War in Lebanon.
- Later, and following up on a mission to Lebanon (see below) the EMHRN (PIP coordinator Marita Roos, Birgit Lindsnæs, Danish Institute for Human Rights and EMHRN EC member and David Bondia Garcia (the Spanish Federation of Associations for Defence and Promotion of Human Rights) in cooperation with the FIDH (deputy secretary general, Sophie Bessis) sent at mission from 29 August to 2 September to Israel,

West Bank and Gaza Strip to show solidarity with its members and report on the human rights situation inside Israel and the OPT.

- A statement from the mission was issued on 15 November and the shadow report submitted to the UCP on 24 October. The latter had not been released by the end of the year as the Dutch Ministry had delayed its report on the situation in countries with which the EU has Association Agreements.
- The convener of the EMHRN PIP working group Stefan Lütgenau, participated in a meeting of the Israeli European Policy Network organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels on 23 November, while EMHRN Advocacy director held several meetings with the Aprovev representative in Brussels and representatives of the ECCP (the European Co-ordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine). Members of the EMHRN PIP WG also took an active part in the Civil Forum in Marrakech, November 2006.

2007

- The EMHRN PIP working group met in Berlin 23-25 February 2007. Among the points on the agenda were the preparation of a training seminar on the EU and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in April 2007, and the discussion and planning for the 3rd annual Human Rights review on EU-Israel relations.
- In relation to the report a reference group was established composed of Adalah, Al Haq and Human Rights Association representatives while the Mattin group again were contracted to research and draft the report.
- It was furthermore decided to try conduct one training session in Tel Aviv and one joint training session for members and partners in the West Bank and Gaza in cooperation with the EMHRN European Neighbourhood project in Brussels.
- On 12 April 2007, the EMHRN organised a training session in Ramallah (with 22 participants), as well as a second training session in Tel Aviv (on 17 April 2007) on the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy (21 participants). The training sessions gathered representatives of human rights NGOs from Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Europe. Representatives of the EC delegations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem also participated in part of the trainings in Ramallah and Tel Aviv. Regretfully training did not take place in Gaza as the training team did not get access to Gaza

The training in Tel Aviv was followed up by an EMHRN seminar on *The EU-Israel Action Plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): What is the impact of the EU-Israel Action Plan on Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory?* on 18 April 2007. Around 55 people attended the seminar, among them Israeli and European NGOs representatives, 12 representatives of EU member states' embassies and representatives of the European Commission in Tel Aviv. Israeli government officials were invited but unable to attend. A representative from a Ukraine was also invited to share his experience.

In follow-up to the meetings in Israel and Palestine a delegation of NGOs from Israel and the West Bank came to Brussels on 25-27 June 2007 to present and discuss the report of the seminar as well as the Third EMHRN Annual Review on Human Rights in EU-Israel relations with the EU institutions . The delegation included Mohammed Zeidan, from the Arab Association for Human rights in Israel, Orna Kohn, from Adalah in Israel and Mays Warrad, from Al-Haq in the West Bank. Their trip to Brussels was followed-up by a visit to the Netherlands (sponsored by United Civilians for Peace). The author of the Review, Susan Rockwell, from the Mattin Group in Israel and EMHRN representatives also participated to the meetings.

In the meantime, the Third Annual Review on Human Rights in EU- Israel relations had been finalised. It was launched on 25 June in English (in an electronic format) with a summary in French; it was widely disseminated through the EMHRN's mailing list . It was also disseminated to the Aprovev group through its coordinator. Finally, the report was presented by the EMHRN delegation during its visit to Brussels.

The report was used for advocacy in relation to the EU and its member states: Regretfully, however, only punctual work was done later as the coordinator of the project resigned from the EMHRN shortly after the finalization of the report and as no immediate replacement could be found.

Following the resignation of the coordinator, the EMHRN regretfully had to down scale activities for almost a year until funds and a coordinator matching the EMHRN's requirements was found.

Nevertheless a number of activities were implemented in the last half of 2007 and first half of 2008.

On 21-27 July 2007 Per Stadig (individual member) and Stefan Lütgenau (Bruno Kreisky Foundation) represented the EMHRN during a mission to Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. The mission was organised in cooperation with EMHRN members in Israel and the OPT. A short statement was issued following the mission, and the mission also led to an ad hoc WG meeting with the participation of WG members in Israel and the OPT, as well as Marc Schade-Poulsen, Per Stadig and Stefan Lütgenau in Jerusalem .

At the meeting in Jerusalem (26 August 2007) – during which a video conference with EMHRN members in Gaza (PCHR and Al Mezan) took place it was agreed not to continue publishing Annual reports on EU-Israel relations in the present format. WG members agreed that the report is valuable and provided new insights as well as facilitated constructive advocacy experiences. However, they also felt that it did not sufficiently reflect participants' everyday work. It was confirmed that the WG members believe that the added value of the EMHRN lies in doing advocacy with regard to the instruments embedded in EU relations with Israel and the authorities in the OPT. Hence, it was agreed seeking to employ a new coordinator with an advocacy profile vis-à-vis the EU institutions. It was furthermore agreed to strengthen strategizing and planning of the WG's activities for the next years in order to give more focus to the work and to facilitate fund raising.

Several meetings then took place between the EMHRN members in Israel and the OPT, and in telephone conferences in which the secretariat took part.

Hence, on 17 September a telephone conference was organised between Marc Schade-Poulsen, Rina Rosenberg (Adalah), Mays Warrad (Al Haq), Nina Atallah (Al Haq) and Mahmoud Aburahma (Al Mezan). In follow-up Marc Schade-Poulsen drafted an outline of a funding proposal that was sent to the WG for comments on 3 October. Thereafter the PIP working group members in Israel and the OPT met for a planning day in Jerusalem on 17 December. The aim was to prepare the next ordinary meeting of the working group as well as fund raising and activity planning.

On 25 October Marc Schade-Poulsen met in Geneva with the Middle East Group of the Aprove in order to present the work of the EMHRN and the PIP WG. Feed-back from individual agencies were positive but the Aprove requested clearer ideas of what the WG want to do in terms of future plans before moving to a closer partnership.

In view of the Sub-committee on political dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Israel held on 22 October, a letter on the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT was sent to the EU institutions. The PIP members contributed to the letter.

The EMHN cancelled its participation in the International Steering Committee of the Forum for a Just Peace to be held in Madrid on 12-14 December as human rights issues were becoming clearly marginalised.

First half of 2008

By the end of January 2008 the EMHRN re-launched a vacancy for the post of PIP Coordinator as the first round of interviews in December 2007 and January 2008 did not provide a candidate with the needed qualifications. The interviews took place on March 28 and led to the employment of Nathalie Stanus in Brussels in mid-June 2008.

Meanwhile, the PIP working group met for a planning meeting in Brussels on April 7-8 2008. During the meeting the members adopted a two years work plan proposal agreeing to set the situation in Gaza at the heart of its lobbying efforts while also dealing with the following issues on an ad hoc manner: Freedom of movement; East Jerusalem; Citizenship Law; The Wall; Settlements; Torture and impunity; Housing rights; Naqab; October 2000 Accountability; Right to work, and property in Lebanon /Palestinian refugees.

Several advocacy meetings (with the participation of Mays Warrad (Al Haq) Fatmeh Al'Ajou (Adalah) and Zeev Zamir (PCATI), with EU representatives were arranged on 9-10 April before the informal working group meeting on human rights between the EU and Israel on 15 April.

Beforehand the WG members had adopted a note on the human rights situation in Israel and OPT that was sent to the EU in view of the said meeting .

On 18 June the EMHRN opened its first coordinator position on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians in Brussels.

The EMHRN is grateful for the financial support of the EU Commission, Danchurch Aid, ICCO, Novib and Church of Sweden to its work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians. (In 2008 DANIDA, SIDA and the Swedish Churches supported the work)

5.3.2 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The **human rights framework** is the full implementation of international human rights standards and international humanitarian law regarding migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, in particular those relating to the Geneva Conventions; the Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families; the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and relevant ILO Conventions.

The **general objective** is to:

- Establish regular regional civil society cooperation on human rights policies, projects and exchange of information pertaining to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Engage in dialogue with governments and EU institutions on questions relating to human rights and forced migration issues
- Develop local capacities in the South Mediterranean to handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights

The **short term objective** of the activity is to:

- Establish a platform for regional civil society cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN plans to hold four regional working group meetings with the aim of:

- Exchanging information about participants' work and increasing mutual knowledge thereof
- Increasing information about the EU and other related policies relevant to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- Developing the civil society human rights response to these policies
- Identifying eventual joint projects
- Identifying eventual training needs
- Monitoring six research reports:
 - Two quality reports on migrants' and transit migrants' experience of travelling through North Africa and the Mashrek respectively
 - Two quality reports on civil society work regarding migrants, transit migrants and refugees in North Africa and the Mashrek respectively
 - One quality report on women in migration and one on the relation between MEDA, free trade, eco-soc rights and migration
- Discussing the gender dimension of the project
- Discussing how the project relates to the question of Palestinian refugees
- Issuing policy papers and News briefings
- Facilitating a follow-up group of EMHRN members in Morocco

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN arrived closer but not fully to its ambitious short term objective of establishing a platform for regional civil society on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

It held regular working group meetings to which were associated a number of NGO partner organisations and representatives of intergovernmental and international organisations. It moved towards the idea of preparing an urgent alert action networking to protect migrants and refugees. Several joint projects have also come out of the activities, and policy papers and news briefs have been produced. Also increased information about the EU and other related policies relevant to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees have been provided.

The EMHRN did not arrive at establishing a follow-up group of EMHRN members in Morocco or to discuss the question of Palestinian refugees in detail and the thematic reports were not published as planned.

Changes in initial planning are explained below.

Output 2006

- 2 Working group meetings (Casablanc and Amman)
- 2 expert reports on North Africa finalised (but not released)
- 2 expert reports on the Machrek initiated
- 1 Newsletter on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Internal reports from the meeting in Casablanca and Amman
- Civil society statements and advocacy in relation to Euro-African Summit on migration in Rabat. July 2006

Output 2007

- Working group meetings (Rome and Cairo) including training sessions on EU and international human rights protection mechanisms
- Public meetings on questions regarding the rights of migrants and refugees
- EMHRN Policy paper on the rights of migrants and refugees
- Mission and public meetings regarding the case of the Tunisian fishermen
- One advocacy tour to Brussels
- Initiation of research on Violence against women and fact finding report on the Machrek
- Establishing of a blog on migrant and refugees' rights

Output second half of 2008

- One Working group meeting in Madrid
- One public meeting in Madrid
- Advocacy meetings in Brussels
- Fact finding missions to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon
- Preparation of urgent alert action networking to protect migrants and refugees
- Newsletters

2006

- The EMHRN has in the period covered by this report coordinated work on the project from its antenna in Rabat, Morocco, that was opened in September 2005.
- On 10-12 March 2006 the EMHRN organised the second meeting of the WG in Casablanca. The meeting counted the participation of the 18 WG members as well as representatives of Moroccan NGOs dealing with migration issues, and representatives of the UNHCR and the EU Delegation. During the meeting the participants discussed draft reports prepared by two teams of researchers on respectively the experience of forced migrants and asylum seekers in travelling through North Africa and coming to Europe and NGO

presence and activities in relation to forced migrants and asylum seekers in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as the legal and practical environment in which the NGOs act .

Participants also discussed the future plans for the WG in particular the work program funded by an EU AENEAS grant that would replace the financial support of the UNHCR. In this regard the WG meeting was preceded by a meeting of the partners that had submitted the application for AENEAS funds (EMHRN members Acsur, Spain; Italian Refugee Council, Italy; Swedish Refugee Aid, Sweden; and Greek Committee for International Solidarity, Greece). They decided amongst other that once the WG had constituted itself, it would give the latter the mandate to steer the AENEAS program.

- Following the meeting, the EMHRN in cooperation with the FIDH and the EuroMed NGO Platform conducted several advocacy initiatives seeking to ensure civil society participation in the Euro-African Summit on Migration that took place in Rabat 10-12 July 2006. Regretfully, civil society did not get access to the conference, but a statement from the three organisations was issued following to the conference.
- On 19 June Michel Tubiana (EC) and Sandrine Grenier (EMHRN Brussels) had meetings with representatives of the EU Council and European Commission to discuss migration and human rights issues before the Summit. Michel Tubiana also made a presentation at the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament the same day.
- During Summer the EMHRN identified a new team of experts to conduct two studies on respectively a) the experience of forced migrants and asylum seekers in travelling through the Mashrek and coming to Europe and b) NGO presence and activities in relation to forced migrants and asylum seekers in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt as well as the legal and practical environment in which the NGOs act.
- Partial results of these studies were presented at the third Working group meeting held in Amman, 16-17 December 2006 (with the assistance of the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies). Also local Jordanian NGOs were invited as well as representatives of the UNHCR and the IOM. The meeting was divided in two parts. A closed meeting of the working group members where they discussed the mandate of the WG and the needs of its members including the need to receive training on EU policies on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The public part of the meeting, that was opened by the head of the EU delegation in Amman, discussed the research reports and presentations made by the UNHCR, IOM and EU representatives in Jordan.
- In preparation of the meeting the EMHRN issued a first newsletter on the question of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in a EuroMed context.

2007

In late 2006 and early 2007 it became clear that the implementation of the EMHRN activities in the field of migration and refugees faced important delays. These delays were due to several elements: Problems faced with the implementation of several studies; Delays with the implementation of the UNHCR programme and the resignation of project coordinator following disagreements on the general implementation methodology of the work program. The work program thus had to be consequently reviewed following the appointment of a new coordinator, Chadi Sidhom.

- Maghreb Studies: The initial work programme foresaw that two reports on the Maghreb (under UNHCR project) be conducted. These two reports were produced. One was finalized and a draft of the second produced. However, following disagreements with the UNHCR, it was not possible to publish the reports.
- Mashrek studies: It was initially foreseen that two reports be published on the Mashrek (under AENEAS project). One of the reports was produced. However, it fell short of expectations and it was thus not possible to publish it. The second report was never produced following major disagreements between the researchers on the working methodology. The EMHRN thus decided to launch a new report (fact sheet study) on migration and asylum in the Mashrek, to collect the missing information. The final result will consist in one report and not two, as initially foreseen.

- Working group meetings: it was decided to schedule an additional working group meeting, to take place by end of 2008.

An amendment request was introduced in September 2007 to the European Commission in order to revise the AENEAS contract so as to respond to the difficulties faced by the EMHRN. All amendments were approved by the European Commission on 21st November 2007.

In the mean time several planned activities were put back on the right track

- The Working group met in Rome on 19-21 May 2007. The following points were on the agenda: Exchange of views with UNHCR, IOM and Italian NGOs on the situation of migration and asylum in Italy; Introduction of new project coordinator; Training on migration and asylum in the Barcelona process and neighbourhood policy; Training on the external dimension of the EU migration and asylum policy; Briefing on the Euromed ministerial conference on migration; Discussion of the strategy of the Working Group; Presentation of the findings of the study on the experience of migrants having transited through the Mashrek on their way to Europe; Discussion on the terms of reference for the study on violence against migrant women.
- A press conference was organised on the situation of the Iraqi refugees in cooperation with the CIR. The UNHCR as well as two member organisations of the working group (CIR, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon) participated to the press conference. In that perspective, a press release of the EMHRN was drafted, in close collaboration with the CIR and other organisations.
- The Rome meeting also concluded that a fact sheet study had to be initiated in order to collect the information which the first two studies on the Mashrek (see above) failed to provide. Draft terms of reference were sent to the members of the steering committee on 27 July 2007, for comments. A draft "fact sheet", specifying the information which EMHRN wishes to collect, was also sent to the members of the steering committee. TOR and fact sheets were presented and approved during the Cairo meeting (19-21 October 07). The implementation of the study is presently in process.
- Also the terms of references of the study on violence against women in migration was discussed during the Rome meeting. A new draft of the terms of reference, in light of the abovementioned remarks, was sent to the members of the steering committee and other NGOs active in the field of women's rights on 27 July 2007, for comments. The TORs were published in November 2007. The researchers were selected in December 2007. The implementation of the study is presently in process.
- Finally, it was agreed during the Rome meeting that the scope of the study on economic and social rights, as defined earlier had to be narrowed down.
- The WG met again in Cairo on 19-21 October 2007. The following points were on the agenda; overview of the latest developments concerning migrants and refugee protection in the region; training sessions on, respectively, EU policies, the rights of migrants and refugees, situation of migrants and refugees in Egypt; Discussion on the Euromed ministerial conference and presentation of position note and advocacy actions to come; Follow up to the project implementation, including discussion of the TOR of the different studies to be launched. The WG meeting also included a meeting between EMHRN members and Egyptian NGOs during which the latter described the difficult situation of migrants and refugees in Egypt.

In addition, the WG members attended a hearing in the administrative court on the closure of two Egyptian NGOs AHRLA and CTUWS (see under FOA)

- The idea of the setting up of an Alert Mission on Migration and Asylum, in the frame of the EMHRN and its members, and in collaboration with other actors, was raised during the Rome and Cairo meeting (respectfully 19-21 May and 19-21 October).

A presentation note in this regard was prepared for the Cairo meeting and further discussed at the level of the EMHRN EC later on. It was agreed that such mission would focus on the follow up to individual emblematic cases, relating to the access to international protection for refugees as well as protection against mistreatments for returned migrants in the EuroMed region. It was also decided that an additional working

group meeting needed to be scheduled by the end of 2008 with all potential local actors in an Alert mission, in order to exchange about existing good practices and identify cooperation possibilities.

- Two newsletters on the situation of migrants and refugees in the Euromed region were jointly published in 2007.

In order to facilitate access to the information contained in the newsletters and to make them more accessible, it was decided that all information contained in the newsletter would be posted on the following blog: www.mawgeng.unblog.fr.

- The first Euromed ministerial conference on migration took place on 18-19 November in Portugal. The EMHRN encouraged the members of the working group to coordinate their activities and positioning in the perspective of this conference. A group of 4 members (LDH, TMSP, CRLDHT, AMDH) of the working group volunteered to coordinate the drafting of a joint position. Finally, a report was prepared and largely distributed in the working languages of the EMHRN
- A presentation of the EMHRN position paper was made during the meeting of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, on the 5 November 2007. The EMHRN also successfully advocated the European Parliament to have it schedule a public debate during its plenary session on 12 November, in relation to the Ministerial conference.
- The EMHRN also published a joint letter with FIDH and the Euromed Civil Society Platform, to the EU presidency. One of the requests put forward by the EMHRN was to ensure that civil society be associated to the Ministerial conference. Unfortunately, no reply was sent by the Presidency. The EMHRN also published a press release, on the eve of the Ministerial conference, to remind its position.

The project coordinator had several advocacy meetings with EU civil servants, in April 2007 and September 2007. The purpose of these meetings was to collect information in relation to the Ministerial conference on migration and to share with the interlocutors some of the EMHRN concerns regarding migrants' and refugee protection in the frame of the Euromed cooperation.

- Following the arrest of Tunisian fishermen by the Italian authorities, after having rescued a group of migrants and disembarked them in Italy, the EMHRN, together with other NGOs participated to the advocacy campaign asking for the release of the fishermen. Several press releases were published and an EMHRN representative was sent to Italy, to participate to a European advocacy delegation, composed of several civil society organization as well as some MEPs.

First half of 2008

A working group meeting took place in Madrid on 11-13 April. The meeting included a public session on the situation of refugees in Spain. The working group took part in a demonstration against the detention of migrants and refugees. A training session on the international protection for refugees was also held and terms of reference on the study on social and economical rights were discussed. The participants also discussed the priorities and action to come in relation to migration and asylum in the Euromed region. As always, an overview of the latest developments in the region was scheduled.

Following the discussions which took place at the EMHRN EC level in December 2007, the MAWG further discussed the idea of strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to act within a network, in order to better safeguard the rights of migrants and refugees.

It was suggested to set up, at the level of the EMHRN and in collaboration with other potential partners, an "Alert Mission", responsible for ensuring access to international protection for refugees and ensuring protection against mistreatments for returned migrants. This suggestion was approved by the EMHRN EC meeting in Casablanca in April 2008. A regional meeting was scheduled to take place in October 2008, with a number of actors, in order to share experiences and best practices, and possibly identify ways of collaboration.

- In addition the coordinator had meetings in Brussels, from 25-29 February 2008 with representatives of the EU institutions (Commission, Parliament and Council) and also gave a short presentation to the PSE group in the European Parliament on migrants and refugees situation in the MEDA region, in relation to the Euromed cooperation on control of migratory flows on 5-6 March 2008.
- The coordinator also had meetings with Swedish, French and Italian government representatives as well as the EU delegation.

The EMHRN wishes to thank the UNHCR and the EU Commission for their support to the activities in 2006. The EU Commission and Ford Foundation supported the EMHRN in 2007. In 2008 activities are supported by the EU Commission, the Ford Foundation, DANIDA and SIDA.

5.3.3 Economic and social rights

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of international human rights standards as they pertain to economic and social rights.

The **general objective** is the setting-up of civil society instruments and mechanisms to monitor the impact of the free trade zone and the MEDA programmes on human rights in the EuroMed region.

The **short term objective** is to:

- Finalise and publicise a report on the relation between the EMP, employment and the right to work in cooperation with the Comisiones Obreros
- Initiate a new research project on the impact of the Barcelona process, on the economic and social rights of people
- Set up a working group on economic and social rights

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN plans to:

- Co-organise a regional seminar on the EMP, employment and the right to work in cooperation with the Comisiones Obreros, Fundacion per la Paz y Solidaridad, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, EuroMed Trade Union Forum and the EMHRN.
- Participate in publicizing and making the methodology and recommendations of the reports known to civil society organizations and decision makers
- Initiate a research project on the impact of the Barcelona process, the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone and the MEDA programmes on the economic and social rights of people and on how they affect migrants in one selected country of the region
- Fund raise for the setting up of a working group on economic and social rights

Output 2006

- *Eight national draft reports on employment and the right to work in the EuroMed region*
- *One draft report on EU and EMP policies with regard to employment and the right to work*
- *One draft regional synthesis report on the EMP, employment and the right to work*
- *Eight members of the EMHRN actively involved in the process*

Output 2007

- *Preparation of a study on the economic and social rights of migrants*
- *Internal draft paper on how the EMHRN can move its agenda on economic and social rights*

Output first half of 2008

- *Launch of study on economic and social rights of migrants*
- *Participation in Aim for human rights project on indicators and the right to health in Egypt*

Summary of Achievements

The aim of developing activities in the field of economic and social rights was maintained. However, the EMHRN only partly succeeded in fulfilling its objectives as implementation of activities in the established working groups as well as managing the growth of the Network and of activities took most of its resources.

2006

- Since July 2005 the EMHRN cooperated on a project on economic and social rights in partnership with the Comisiones Obréras, the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, Fundación Paz y Solidaridad and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (with support of the Spanish Development Cooperation Aid). The project aimed at evaluating the impact of the EMP on employment in eight Mediterranean countries. It consisted of drafting eight national reports on the impact of the EMP on employment and the right to work as well as one report on the EU/EMP policies and practice regarding the Barcelona Process. These reports would then be gathered into a synthesis report. The aim of these reports would be to show the link between economics and human rights, and to raise awareness and increase the capacity of NGOs to use a rights based approach to economic and social rights issues. The EMHRN ensured the presence of several EMHRN members at the meetings under the project¹².

The steering group of the project met in Madrid in February 2006 and decided that the final conference of the project presenting all reports should take place in Tunisia.

Preparations of the meeting went well ahead during spring and summer. However, when all participants arrived at the meeting in Tunisia, they learned that it had been blocked by the Tunisian authorities. Despite efforts by the participating organisations to change the situation they did not succeed in doing so. The organisers issued a statement condemning the censorship of the Tunisian authorities. It was later followed-up by a condemnation by the EU Council (October 2006). Following the meeting the Spanish Development Cooperation Aid agreed to fund a seminar at a later stage to replace the Tunisian meeting.

2007

The seminar on Employment and the Right to Work in the EuroMed region planned for Tunis was subsequently held in Madrid on 8-9 March 2008. Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen represented the EMHRN at the meeting in which also Khemais Chammari (individual EMHRN member) Nouzha Lamrini (ADFM) and Lina Al Qurah (then SIGI-Jordan) took part

The seminar participants adopted a resolution that was subsequently presented at the first EuroMed High Level Meeting on Employment that took place in Berlin on 17-18 March.

Unfortunately the publication of the synthesis report, country reports and thematic reports from the project were then significantly delayed due to changes in the staffing of the project in Spain. The reports are expected to be published in late 2008.

- During 2007 and the first half of 2008 the EMHRN started exploring the possibility of producing a practical resource on economic and social rights that could be used by NGOs in the region. In particular, the resource and subsequent activity would be focused on promoting the economic and social rights dimension of the Barcelona process which to date has been neglected by both the EU institutions and most of civil

¹² Iain Byrne, Human Rights Centre, Essex; Khemais Chammari, individual member took part in the process as EMHRN human rights experts; Nouzha Lamrini; Moroccan Democratic Association of Women (ADFM); Souhad Triki, Maghreb Egalité; Ghassan Abdallah, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation; Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation, Lina Al-Qorah, SIGI; Nizam Assaf, Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies.

society. The resource would include a legal base in order to promote the justiciability of economic and social rights and also have a focus on broader advocacy and campaigning techniques. It would be produced in cooperation with member organisations of the EMHRN and hence lay the ground for the establishment of a working group.

- The EMHRN participated in a conference organised by its Dutch member organisation Aim for Human Rights (formerly HOM) in the Netherlands on 29-30 November 2007 on human rights impact assessment. The case of Egypt and the ENP was discussed during the conference in which the CIHRS and other Egyptian human rights NGOs took part.. Following the conference, Aim for Human Rights decided to work on the right to health in Egypt and to develop a monitoring/ advocacy tool in this regard.

First half of 2008

- Discussions about the future work of the EMHRN in the field of economic and social rights continued within the EC
- The research on economic and social rights of migrants was launched (see under migration)
- The EMHRN (EC member Iain Byrne) took part in a meeting in June organised by Aim for Human Rights in Cairo to develop indicators regarding the right to health in Egypt

The EMHRN wishes to thank Fundación Paz y Solidaridad, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Spanish Development Cooperation Aid for cooperation on the employment study.

6. Communication

The **human rights framework** of this activity is to create efficient, comprehensive and transparent tools to transmit the human rights objective and values of the EMHRN internally and externally

The **general objective** is to efficiently communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members within the membership and to relevant media, decision makers and civil society groups, as well as to communicate information to the membership about human rights developments relating to their work

The **short term objective** is to;

- finalise and start implementing an internal and external communications strategy
- initiate an updated web site reflecting the work of members and the main human rights issues of the region, the EMP and related EU-Arab cooperation frameworks

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

- Employ a communication officer in charge of the EMHRN's internal and external communications, the publications and the web site, and a communication officer in Brussels in charge of relations with the media
- On the executive level, strengthen its work in terms of monitoring and reacting to changes in the human rights situation in the region
- Finalise a communication and media strategy and initiate implementation, including the issuing of news briefings and newsletters with news from members and news about the latest human rights developments in the EuroMed region, the EU, etc.
- Proactively contact members in order to exchange information and increasingly target specific news to specific needs

Finalise a new web site and develop it by the build-up of thematic modules

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN took several steps towards achieving the objectives set out in the Working program. The EC discussed the communication strategy of the EMHRN at several meetings. The EMHRN established a common layout for its publications. It employed a full time communication officer (based in Copenhagen) and developed communication plans for that position. It did not succeed in employing a second communication officer in Brussels, and many things still needs to be done in relation to the Media. However, the EMHRN identified funds in 2008 to employ a media officer in Cairo to deal with the Arab press. The EMHRN finalised its new web site with important contributions by the members that received an increasing number of visitors (12 206 in June 2008) (source: Awstats). The EMHRN identified funds to upgrade the technical set-up of the Web site which will provide it with more visitors in the future. Also its News bulletin and press releases reached an increasing number of subscribers. The number of press statements increased including the number of media that mentioned the EMHRN's activities. The EMHRN began systematically organizing public meetings and/or press meetings on the occasion of its Working group meetings. Finally, the EMHRN succeeded in continuing the time- and resource consuming but rewarding policy of ensuring that its key documents and communication was done in its three working languages, Arabic, English and French.

Output 2006

- *A new web site initiated*
- *A communication officer employed*
- *25 news briefs and policy statements disseminated to 3,500 subscribers of the EMHRN news service as well as to EU and Arab media and EU institutions in Brussels*
- *Regular coverage of EMHRN press releases in "Agence Europe" and in local media when EMHRN events organised in Mediterranean countries*
- *26 News bulletins covering human rights issues in the EuroMed region issued to 2.400 subscribers*
- *2 Newsletters issued to 2.400 Subscribers*

Output 2007

- *Position of communication officer upgraded*
- *45 News bulletins issued to 2.400 subscribers*
- *32 news briefs and policy statements disseminated to 3,500 subscribers of the EMHRN news service as well as to EU and Arab media and EU institutions in Brussels*
- *Broadened coverage of EMHRN activities in the Media of the EuroMed region*
- *Creation of two web pages dedicated to the Human Rights Education summer schools*
- *Creation of 15 web pages on Freedom of association,*
- *Creation of 3 web pages on the tenth anniversary*
- *Creation of one web a page on justice*
- *2 Web interviews*
- *One web film*
- *4 newsletters forwarded to the EMHRN members and made available of the Web Site*
- *Organisation of the EMHRN's 10th Anniversary including a public meeting in Brussels and Paris, a public reception, the publication of a poster, distribution of an USB key.*

Output first half of 2008

- *Organising of public meetings and press conferences in relation to EMHRN working group meetings*
- *25 News bulletins issued to 2.400 subscribers*
- *38 news briefs and policy statements disseminated to 3.400 subscribers of the EMHRN news service as well as to EU and Arab media and EU institutions in Brussels*
- *2 newsletters*
- *7 video interviews*
- *Video page on Dailymotion <http://www.dailymotion.com/euomedrights>*
- *Organising a public event to honour the EMHRN's first president, Abdelaziz Bennani (Casablanca)*

2006

The EMHRN finalized the largest part of the renewal of its web site. The establishing of the web site took place with the active inputs of an ad hoc group of EMHRN members knowledgeable of web sites from the North and the South¹³. In 2006 the ad hoc group met once in Paris (February 2006) while the overall build-up of the Web site was presented for the members at the General Assembly in Madrid. From January to September Secretariat staff members worked on the content built-up of the Site that was officially launched in September 2006.

Meanwhile the EMHRN identified funds to employ a communication coordinator. Vacancies were launched before summer and the selected person, Marc Degli Esposti, started his assignment in Copenhagen in October 2006. Regretfully, a part time vacancy in Brussels for a coordinator in charge of media questions had to be abandoned due to lack of resources.

The time resources needed to hire a communication person and introducing him to the EMHRN's doings while setting-up an action plan for communication meant that EMHRN's news service was somehow downscaled during summer and the autumn. However, the EMHRN did produce substantial information despite this fact, amongst other briefs and policy statements relating to the human rights situation in the EuroMed region (please, see EMHRN Web Site for full list)

2007

- The EMHRN focussed on consolidating and developing its Web site with the result of an increased number of visitors. This included features regarding members' work, video interviews, a calendar of human rights related activities in the EuroMed region; a news service built on the contribution of the EMHRN membership.
- It also started a process of developing its data base in order to reach out more efficiently to its target groups.
- The EMHRN developed the layout of its publications and updated its logo.
- Furthermore it launched its 10th Anniversary program high-lighting the membership, producing a poster and organising a series of public events. It also included a presentation of the EMHRN at a meeting of High Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in May in Berlin under the German Presidency of the EU; a press conference and public meeting in Brussels; a reception for EMHRN partners and members in Brussels; a public meeting in Paris (organised in cooperation with la Maison de l'Europe) a meeting with Commissioner Benita Ferrero Waldner and a presentation of the EMHRN in the European Parliament.
- The EMHRN increased the number of press statements and noted an increased number of quotations in the European and Arabic press
- It organised public meetings in Brussels, Rome and in Cairo.

2008

The EMHRN continued its activities along the track of 2007. In addition it started organising more public meetings (with local NGOs and media) on the occasion of its WG meetings in the region (2 in Cairo, 1 in Casablanca, 1 in Brussels and 1 in Madrid and 1 Barcelona)

The EMHRN furthermore identified funds to employ a communication officer in Cairo in order to strengthen EMHRN presence in the Arabic press and to develop the Arabic section of its Web Site.

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the SIDA, Ford Foundation, the EU Commission, and DANIDA to its activities within the field of communication.

¹³ Malika Abdelaziz, ACSUR Las Segovias, Spain; Omar Grech, MEDAC, Malta ; Aiman Haddad, Arabic Translator ; Munir Idaibes, Aman Jordan Web Site (SIGI), Jordan; Stefan Lütgenau, Bruno Kreisky Foundation, Austria; Colm Regan, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World, Ireland; Adam Nissen Feldt/Klaus Slavensky, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark; Lina Quora, SIGI, Jordan

7. Solidarity

The **human rights framework** is the respect by state and non-state actors of the principles of the Human Rights Defenders Declaration (UN 9 December 1998)

The **general objective** is

- to make use of available human rights protection instruments when EMHRN members are at risk, in particular the effective support of EMHRN regular and associate membership
- to ensure that members feel that the Network constitutes a protection mechanism for them

The **short term objective** is to respond with available means when EMHRN members or their work are at risk

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

In this respect it will:

- Appoint a part-time coordinator to support members when they are at risk and mobilise support for their cases
- On the executive level, strengthen its work regarding monitoring and responding to changes of the human rights situation in the region
- Relaunch the idea of creating a trial observation team among EMHRN members and fundraise for such a project
- Draft a concept paper on its policy and practice as regards solidarity work and urgent action
- Maintain close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN was only partly able to fulfil its short term objectives. It did not succeed in appointing a part time coordinator for the work; to draft a concept paper on its policy; or to re-launch the idea of creating a trial monitoring program.

However in the first half of 2008 it identified funds for a full time coordinator to work on solidarity in the future (from 2009 with a main focus on Algeria, Syria and Tunisia). It also continued close cooperation with the EMHRF hosted by the EMHRN and originally established by it. It followed a number of cases where its members were at risk. By the end of 2007 it increasingly moved its solidarity work to the Working groups with the effect of an increasing number of cases being dealt with.

Output 2006

- *EMHRN succeeded in strengthening links with Syrian human rights defenders*
- *EMHRN and EMRHF worked in synergy regarding support to EMHRN members*
- *The EMHRN conducted ad hoc solidarity work for members including missions and press statements*

Output 2007

- *The EMHRN and EMRHF continued working in synergy regarding support to EMHRN members*
- *The EMHRN increased ad hoc solidarity work for members including missions and press statements*

Output 2008

- *EMHRN and EMRHF continued working in synergy regarding support to EMHRN members*
- *The EMHRN further increased ad hoc solidarity work for members including missions and press statements*
- *The EMHRN identified funds to employ a full time coordinator to work on solidarity from 2009 and onwards*

2006

- The EMHRN worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders who on several occasions supported EMHRN members' activities.
- On 19 May 2006 the EMHRN issued a press statement following the wave of arrests taking place after issuing of the Damascus Declaration by Syrian political opponents to the regime.

It also worked with Syrian human rights defenders seeking to facilitate their work. Hence representatives of 6 Syrian human rights organisations were invited to attend the General Assembly (as observers or members) which gave the opportunity to conduct several meetings on the situation in Syria in the margins of the Assembly. In July the EMHRN (in cooperation with the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies) facilitated the holding of a General Assembly of the CDF-Syria in Amman. In August 2006, EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi and EC members Moataz El Fegiery conducted a mission to Syria to inquire into the situation of the CDF and Syrian human rights organisations.

The EMHRN in cooperation with the FIDH also ensured strong Syrian presence at the Civil Forum in Marrakech which allowed several meetings on strategies and options for work in Syria to take place.

- In August 2006 the EMHRN took the lead in organising a mission of solidarity to Lebanon (in cooperation with the FIDH and the EuroMed NGO Platform) composed of EC member, Michel Tubiana, FIDH then Vice President, Souhayr Belhassen, and EuroMed NGO Platform President, José Martin. The mission was, as mentioned above, followed up by a mission to Israel and the OPT in September 2006. Both missions were followed up by a mission report.
- 6-10 September 2006, EMHRN Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, under close police scrutiny, met with members of EMHRN based in Tunisia (LTDH, ADFM, CNLT and Arab Institute for Human Rights Studies) to discuss how to strengthen cooperation with the EMHRN.
- In October 2006, the EMHRN, in cooperation with its Tunisian members, launched a campaign for Kamel Jendoubi regarding the fact that he does not have a Tunisian passport. Initiation of the action was coordinated with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- The EMHRN published a press release and made the case known within the EU Institutions following the burglary of the SOLIDA office in Beirut in relation to its issuing of a report (on detention conditions in Lebanon) in September 2006.
- In September 2006, the EMHRN supported a petition for the release of Fatmi El-Jahmi, a Libyan political prisoner, who was abducted for criticizing Ghadafi in 2004.
- The EMHRN also sought to strengthen relations with its member and other organisations in Turkey. EMHRN Vice President, Eva Norstroem and Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, went on a mission to Turkey in February 2006 which was followed up by the EMHRN extending invitations to Turkish NGOs to attend the General Assembly as observers. In autumn 2006 further steps were taken to prepare another mission of the EMHRN to Turkey which resulted in a WG meeting of the HRE WG to be held in Istanbul followed-up by a Summer School organised in Istanbul in July 2008 in cooperation with EMHRN member, Human Rights Association and other partners.

2007

- The EMHRN worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders who on several occasions supported EMHRN members' activities.
- On 21 February the EMHRN expressed its concern that the Trial Court of Tunis confirmed the decision of cancelling the congress of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH).
- On 12 April the EMHRN condemned the continuous Judiciary harassment of Diyabakir Mayor and former IHD member Osman Baydemir, Turkey.

- On 9 May the EMHRN issued a statement expressing its dismay of the sentencing of Syrian human rights defender Anwar El Bunni to 5 years imprisonment and the fact that hundreds of other political prisoners are currently in detention and still awaiting trial in Syria
- On 10 May the EMHRN issued a statement about the unacceptable treatment by the Authorities at Ben Gurion airport of Mr. Ameer Makhoul, Director of the Union of Arab Community Based Organisations in Israel (Ittijah) and founding member of the Euromed non-Governmental Platform.
- On 31 May the EMHRN condemned the fact that PCHR office in Jabalaya (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights) was hit during an air raid by Israeli forces as well as the killings of many civilians by the Israeli Defence Forces. The office was not the target but it was severely damaged by the blast..
- On 20 July the EMHRN issued a statement about the arrest of several members of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH) and the charge against 7 AMDH members for 'attacking the sacred values of the Kingdom'.
- On 21-27 July 2007 the EMHRN sent a mission to investigate the current human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and, in particular, the Gaza strip. It was composed of EMHRN members Per Stadig, lawyer, Sweden, and Stefan August Lütgenau, historian, Austria. The mission met with representatives of human rights organisations, trade unions, women's organisations, journalists and other civil society organisations in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel. It also met with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) belonging to Fatah, Hamas and other political parties, including independent PLC members, as well as other representatives of the two parties to the present internal conflict.
- On 15 August the EMHRN expressed its concern at intense harassment faced by Omar Mestiri (CNLT), a human rights activist and journalist from the Tunisian judiciary.
- On 3 and 4 September the EMHRN condemned the action by unidentified individuals who broke into and ransacked the office of lawyer Ayachi Hammami in Tunis. The computer was wrecked and put on fire. The interior of the office was damaged by fire.
- On 4 September the EMHRN issued a statement about denial by the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Occupied Territories (COGAT), of entry permits to four human rights defenders to attend meetings of the EMHRN's Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians (WG), which took place in Jerusalem on 26 and 27 August 2007. The four applicants were Mr. Issam Younis, General Director and Mr. Mahmoud Abu Rahma of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; and Mr. Raji Sourani, Director and Mr. Hamdi Shaqura of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights-Gaza.
- On 4 September the EMHRN also expressed its concern by the plight of seven Tunisian fishermen arrested in Italy on August 8, 2007, after they came to the rescue of 44 migrants and asylum seekers in distress.
- On 10 September the EMHRN protested against the decision to close down the Association of Human Rights and Legal Aid (AHRLA) in Egypt which seemed to be retaliation for its significant role in exposing the wave of institutionalized torture being practiced in Egypt.
- On 10 September the EMHRN welcomed the release of the seven Tunisian fishermen who were arrested and detained by Italian authorities since 8 August, 2007.
- On 12 December the EMHRN urged the Syrian authorities to release and immediately put an end to all arbitrary measures against the Al Bunni family - after the arrest of Akram Bunni - and Syrian human rights defenders, who have been subjected to continuous repression.

2008

- The EMHRN worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders who on several occasions supported EMHRN members' activities.
- On 9 January the EMHRN, The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) expressed their deepest concern about the ongoing arbitrary detention of nine peaceful activists in Syria who participated in a meeting which resulted in the creation of the National Council of the Damascus Declaration.
- On 14 January the EMHRN issued a statement about attacks and court actions by neo-Nazis against GHM's Spokesperson Panayote Dimitras, Greece.
- On 30 January the EMHRN protested against the arrest of Ethem Açıklın, Chairperson of the IHD branch in Adana, and 6 other persons. They were accused of being members of an illegal organisation and 'making propaganda of an illegal organisation'.
- On 30 January the EMHRN, The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) expressed their deepest concern about continued crackdown on Syrian activists when Mr Riad Seif, former member of the Syrian parliament and 'Damascus Spring' figurehead, was arrested by the Syrian Security forces.
- On 7 February the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders expressed their deepest concern regarding the prohibition from travelling which was imposed on Mr. Hisham El Bastawassi, vice-president of the Egyptian Court of Cassation, and Mr. Ashraf El-Baroudi, judge at Alexandria Court of Appeal. Mr. Bastawassi and Mr. El-Baroudi were invited to attend a meeting on the independence of the judiciary in the EuroMed region organised by the EMHRN in Brussels on 9-11 February 2008.
- On 20 February the EMHRN issued a statement about the violent assault in Tunisia on Fatma Ksila, Secretary General of CRLDHT¹, and Samia Abbou, member of the ALTLT.
- On 5 March the EMHRN firmly condemned the assault and the ill treatments imposed on Ms Sihem Bensedrine spokesperson and Secretary-General of the Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie) and Mr. Omar Mestiri (at Tunis Airport).
- On 26 March the EMHRN asked for a stop to the arbitrary investigation against the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) and its spokes person Mr. Panayote Dimitras following a complaint filed by a neo-Nazi convicted after a GHM complaint.
- On 2 April the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders welcomed the verdict issued on 30 March 2008 by the Egyptian judiciary, which allowed the Center for Trade Unions and Workers' Services (CTUWS) to continue its activities in Egypt.
- On 8 April the EMHRN and several other organisations expressed their deep concern about the request of the public prosecutor of a two years imprisonment of Mr. Abderrahman Amine Sidhoum, lawyer and member of SOS Disparu(e)s at a court trial on 30 March.
- On 14 April the EMHRN expressed its concern about new acts of harassment and intimidation against M. Khémaïs Chammari, individual member of the EMHRN and board member of the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.
- On 20 May the EMHRN protested against the ban to travel and to leave the Palestinian territories imposed since March 2006 by the Israeli authorities on Mr. Shawan Jabarin, General Director of Al-Haq, a EMHRN member organisation.

- On 9 June the EMHRN issued a statement against a Turkish court's decision to dissolve the association, Lambda Istanbul, which defends lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people's human rights in Turkey.
- On 13 June the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders condemned the Egyptian Government's decision to prevent the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) from participating in the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV and AIDS, which was held in New York on 10 and 11 June 2008.
- On 13 June 2008 the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, urged the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to the ongoing judicial and administrative harassment against Mr. Mazen Darwish, Head of the Syrian Center for Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression and a member of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights (CDF).

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission and DANIDA to its work on solidarity (in the first half of 2008 the work was sustained by the EU Commission, DANIDA and SIDA)

8. Training

The **human rights framework** of the activity is to create training tools to strengthen members' capacity to deliver their and the EMHRN's human rights objectives and vision.

The **general objective** is to

- offer at least four training courses per year for the EMHRN membership and to involve EMHRN members in the planning, organization, implementation, and evaluation of these courses
- create synergies between different training and capacity building efforts within the Network

The **short term** objective is to clarify the objectives of training and propose a training programme for the next two years and to set up initial training courses as pilot projects.

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

- Establish an overview over planned training and capacity building activities within the Network and see if there are obvious synergies to be established
- Draft a concept paper on the objectives of the training programmes
- Implement training and advocacy seminars on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in four countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Israel)
- Initiate the design of a gender mainstreaming course and test it at two sub-regional meetings
- Actively explore the feasibility of organising 'model courses' on the EU and European human rights systems

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN partly fulfilled the objectives of its work program. Regrettably it did not have the resources to establish an overview of training and capacity building activities within the Network or draft a concept paper regarding its training programmes. It did however organise the planned training and advocacy seminars. Also some working groups integrated training on EU and international instruments in their agendas. Finally the EMHRN continued organising and planning human rights education Summer Schools.

Output 2006

- 4 Power point presentations of the human rights dimension of the EMP, ENP, and EU finalised and uploaded on the EMHRN Web site (2 general and 2 tailored for Egypt and Lebanon and Israel)

2007

- 24 representatives of EMHRN member organisations trained in gender mainstreaming principles at two training sessions (in Beirut and Paris)
- 180 key actors directly informed and trained on the ENP in Israel and Morocco
- Migration refugee right working group and PIP working group integrated training activities on EU and international instruments in their work
- Gender mainstreaming kit finalised

First half of 2008

- Gender mainstreaming kit published
- Gender mainstreaming kit used for training in Morocco (AMDH) and Jordan (ACHRS)
- Migration refugee right working group and PIP working group continued integrating training activities on EU and international instruments in their work

2006

- The EMHRN consider its networking activities – in particular the Working groups - as capacity building activities for its members. This has been established by two evaluation reports of the EMHRN¹⁴. In addition, the EMHRN aims at initiating targeted training activities for its members and NGOs in the region where gaps in training offers have been identified.
- In 2006 the EMHRN conducted two training sessions on the European Neighbourhood Policy (in Egypt and Lebanon) and prepared training documents in this regard (see below). It also organised a training sessions at the June PIP WG meeting.
- It published a guide to human rights in Euro-Mediterranean Relations including power point presentations.
- Finally it initiated work to conduct training sessions on gender mainstreaming for its members in 2007.

2007

- The EMHRN conducted three training sessions on the European Neighbourhood Policy (in Ramallah, Tel Aviv and Rabat) for EMHRN members and related civil society organisations and prepared training documents in this regard.
- It also conducted two regional training courses on gender mainstreaming for EMHRN members (in Beirut and Paris) during which it developed and finalised a gender mainstreaming training kit

First half of 2008

- The EMHRN conducted one training course on gender mainstreaming for the staff of the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (Amman). Another course was organised by the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (facilitated by WG member Atiqta Ettaif)

9. Advocacy and dialogue

The **human rights framework** is the active implementation of EU, ENP and EMP instruments pertaining to international human rights standards in the EuroMed region

The **general objective** is to efficiently communicate EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU and EMP and ensure feed-back from and dialogue with these

¹⁴ EU Evaluation of the EMHRN, 2003 - EuropeAid/ME8/B77050/IB/1999/0283B; DANIDA Evaluation of the EMHRN, 2004 - DANIDA, March 2005

The **short term objective** is to build on and develop existing activities regarding the EU institutions and to strengthen work on bi-lateral relations in particular as concerns the human rights instruments of the ENP

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

- Strengthen staffing of the Brussels office to include a director, a full time assistant, a part time media specialist and an intern
- Develop a media strategy linked to the EMHRN advocacy strategy
- Develop a strategy of the EMHRN with regard to the ENP, including actively looking into the possibility of setting up a working group.
- Maintain advocacy initiatives on individual EMP countries and draw lessons learned from these initiatives
- Advise EMHRN members and develop EMHRN advocacy working groups on the multilateral and bi-lateral level
- Continue promoting its general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the EMP, the EU and partner governments; Disseminate reports and policy papers produced by its working groups and missions on key questions requiring particular attention and promote their recommendations; disseminate the results of its missions; Organise meetings between members and the European institutions (Parliament, Commission and Council); Inform members on the Web and in news letters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP; Organise executive committee meetings in different partner countries of the EMP, facilitating meetings with government representatives, the press and NGOs.

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN consolidated and developed its advocacy work in relation to the EU institutions. It was increasingly consulted by EU institution representatives and regularly presented its work in the Council (Maghreb-Machrek group, the European Parliament Sub committee on human rights, and EU commission (country desks, regional desks, EU delegation representatives). It significantly strengthened its work on the bi-lateral relations between the EU and its Mediterranean partners through its work on the European Neighbourhood policy and by systematically following the bi-lateral association council meetings between the EU and its Mediterranean partners.

The EMHRN did not yet succeed in employing a media officer in Brussels or develop a media strategy for Brussels. However, in the first half of 2008 the Brussels office was significantly strengthened as it employed a full time coordinator to work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians and was in the process of up-grading the position on the ENP from a part time job to a full time position.

Output 2006

- *Power point presentations of the human rights dimension of the EMP, ENP, and EU finalised and up-loaded on the EMHRN Web site*
- *160 key actors directly informed and trained on the ENP of which 130 were NGOs*
- *2 reports on the ENP and Egypt and Lebanon released and up loaded on EMHRN Home page*
- *EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before all Association Council meetings*
- *3.400 subscribers received reports, letters and press releases*
- *Broad media attention regarding the human rights dimension of the ENP in Egypt and Lebanon*
- *NGOs in Lebanon and Egypt monitor local progress or set-back in human rights dimension of ENP*

- *Encounters between NGOs and EU institutions' representatives have been regularly organised on the human rights situation in several Mediterranean countries and on thematic issues (eg gender equality, migration); also EMHRN and its members regularly heard in the EP sub-committee on human rights and in the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group*
- *Approximately 100 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters*
- *Following NGO advocacy EU institutions act, eg an EP resolution and Council statement's on Egypt in mid 2006.*
- *Successful advocacy work regarding women's rights with the adoption of the Istanbul Euromed 5 Years Action Plan.*
- *Successful joint advocacy work of the EMHRN with other NGOs regarding the new financial regulation for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*

Output in 2007

- *Around 230 key actors directly informed and trained on the ENP*
- *2 reports on the ENP and Israel and Morocco released and up loaded on EMHRN Web site*
- *EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries.*
- *3.400 subscribers received reports, letters and press releases*
- *Broad media attention regarding in Israel and Morocco on the human rights dimension of the ENP*
- *NGOs in Israel, Palestine and Morocco monitor local progress or set-back in human rights dimension of ENP*
- *Encounters between EMHRN members and EU institution representatives have been regularly organised on the human rights situation in several Mediterranean countries and on thematic issues (eg gender equality, migration, justice, freedom of association); also EMHRN and its members regularly heard in the EP sub-committee on human rights and in the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group*
- *Approximately 100 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters*
- *Successful joint advocacy work of the EMHRN with other NGOs regarding the new financial regulation and instrument for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*
- *Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joined advocacy efforts.*
- *Successful co-organisation of the EMHRN's 10th Anniversary including meetings in the Council (Maghreb-Machrek group; the European Parliament and Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner)*

First half of 2008

- *Approximately 50 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters*
- *Successful lobbying concerning European Parliament resolution on human rights in Egypt*
- *Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joined advocacy efforts.*
- *EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries.*
- *Promotion of Justice reports in Brussels*
- *Promotion of the human rights positions related to EU-Israeli relation*

2006

- *The EMHRN maintained and developed a wide network between its members, EU, ENP and EMP officials through regular contacts with relevant representatives of the EU institutions and through organising visits for human rights defenders in Brussels. For example 6 Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders attended meetings in Brussels on 16-19 June 2006; Michel Tubiana (member of the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC)) and Moataz El Fegiery (CIHRS, EC member), Orna Kohn (PCATI) and Jessica Montell (B'Tselem) took part in an EP hearing on 19 June 2006 on respectively 'human rights, human rights defenders and migrants' and 'human rights and human rights defenders in the EU- Egypt ENP Action Plan and the EU-Israel Action Plan'.*
- *As mentioned above the EMHRN also issued 26 News bulletins with latest news briefs on the human rights situation in the region, EU, EMP and civil society initiatives in Arabic, English and French. This included statements made before meetings taking place within the framework of the bilateral association agreements*

between the EU and South Mediterranean Partners. They were forwarded to 3.400 subscribers in the EuroMed region, the vast majority being key actors of the EMP (NGO representatives, representatives of the EU institutions, Parliamentarians, experts, etc.).

- Joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before all Association Council meetings (EU-Tunisia on 6 March, EU-Algeria on 14 March, EU-Lebanon on 6 April, EU-Egypt on 8 June) and an EMHRN letter before the EU-Israel Association Council on 9 June
- During the year the EMHRN and its members had meetings with representatives of the cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner; the Commission's staff from Relex and AidCo; the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group and representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean countries as well as Members of national parliaments in the EU and Mediterranean countries and Members of the European Parliament and the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly.
- The EMHRN and its members were invited by the Maghreb-Mashrek group of the Council. Hence a delegation from Egypt and then Lebanon presented their concerns before the MAMA group, and later EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi made a presentation of the EMHRN's work on 7 December 2006.
- Kamel Jendoubi also made a presentation on human rights in EU-Mediterranean relations at a hearing of the EPP Group in the European Parliament on 7 December.
- In relation to EC meetings in France, Denmark and Jordan (see below) meetings were held with government representatives and representatives of civil society.
- The EMHRN was consulted prior to the holding of sub-committee meetings on human rights under the Association Agreement between the EU and Morocco (14 November 2006)
- The EMHRN also took a pro-active part in the Brussels NGOs successful work to ensure an independent budget line for the European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights and participated in NGO consultation meetings with the European Parliament and Commission on EIDHR budget line and programming.
- The EMHRN produced a PowerPoint presentation about the human rights dimension of the EMP, ENP and the EU. It was tested at two training seminars in Egypt and Lebanon and up-loaded on the EMHRN's web site. By the end of 2006 a training guide was also about to be finalised providing background information to the Power point presentation.
- Furthermore, the EMHRN organised two seminars on the ENP:

On 26-27 January 2006 the EMHRN organised a seminar on European Neighbourhood Policy, 'Human rights in EU-Egypt Relations' in Cairo gathering Egyptian NGOs but also human rights defenders from across Europe and neighbouring countries. Hence participants included representatives of NGOs from Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, France and Ukraine. It was opened by the Ambassador of Austria in Egypt. On the EU side, representatives of the European Commission delegation as well as the United Kingdom, Austrian, French, Dutch and Swedish embassies attended the seminar. Regretfully, Egyptian government representatives were absent although invited.

The report of the seminar and detailed recommendations for the Action Plan were subsequently sent to the Egyptian government and presented to the EU Institutions by a delegation of two Egyptian NGO representatives (Moataz Elfegiery, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and Hossam Bahgat, EIPR as well as EMHRN representatives on 20-22 March in Brussels before the fourth round of negotiations between the EU and Egypt. As a result the European Parliament adopted a resolution and the EU Presidency issued a statement on behalf of the Council.

On 2-3 June 2006 the EMHRN organised a seminar on the ENP in Beirut entitled Human Rights in the Lebanon Action Plan. It gathered around 90 participants mainly from Lebanon, but also from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Georgia, Moldavia and Turkey, in addition to representatives of the Lebanese Government, the

European Commission, and the embassies of the following countries: United Kingdom, Austria, France, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, Sweden, Norway, Palestinian National Authority, Canada, USA and Russia.

Following this event around 10 NGOs in Lebanon gathered several times to prepare recommendations for the report. A delegation of Lebanese NGO representatives presented the report and discussed the recommendations with the EU institutions and Member States representatives in Brussels on 8-11 October 2006. The NGO representatives from Lebanon were Ms Rola Badran from the PHRO and Mss Delphine Compain from the René Moawad Fondation. Unfortunately, the President of SOLIDA, Marie Daunay, was prevented from taking her flight to Brussels.

2007

- The EMHRN maintained and developed a wide network between its members, EU and EMP officials through regular contacts with relevant representatives of the EU institutions and organising visits for human rights defenders in Brussels. For instance a lobbying visit of a delegation of three of EMHRN's Israeli and Palestinian members (Adalah, Arab Association for Human Rights and Al Haq) visited Brussels in June to present a report from a seminar in Tel Aviv on the ENP and Israel and the EMHRN's annual report on Human Rights in EU-Israeli relations. Moroccan members (ADFM, AMDH, OMDH) visited Brussels in November to present the report of the seminar co-organised by the EMHRN and the Moroccan Euromed Platform and their key recommendations for the implementation of the human rights chapter of the ENP Action Plan to the EU institutions.
- Joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings (EU-Egypt in March, EU-Lebanon in March, EU-Morocco in August) and following the EU-Egypt Association Council meeting (March).
- During the year the EMHRN and its members had meetings with representatives of Commission staff from Relex and AidCo; the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group and representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean countries as well as Members of national parliaments in the EU and Mediterranean countries, Members of the European Parliament and the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly.
- The EMHRN was consulted prior to the holding of sub-committee meetings on human rights under the Association Agreement between the EU and Lebanon, EU and Morocco, EU and Tunisia, EU and Egypt.
- The EMHRN Brussels office made several briefings to journalists, eg on 3 October with Lebanese journalists.
- The EMHRN also took a pro-active part in the Brussels NGOs successful work on the new programming of the European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights (eg. on possibilities of funding of HR defenders in emergency situation under the new EIDHR) and participated in NGO consultation meetings with the European Parliament and Commission on EIDHR budget line and programming. It also participated in several meetings with other NGOs working on Human Rights defenders in Brussels to discuss the new funding possibility for human rights defenders under the EIDHR.
- EMHRN did some advocacy work regarding other EU programs for the Mediterranean region (eg. on gender and civil society)
- The EMHRN Brussels office lobbied on gender in view of the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly plenary session which took place on 16-18 March in Tunis.
- The EMHRN made a speech on its work and human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region at the meeting of High Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Berlin, May 2008.
- EMHRN Brussels office made a presentation on the EMHRN and its work at the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs, security and human rights to EU and Mediterranean countries' members of parliaments on 2 July.

- Brussels office partly participated in the “international Conference of civil society in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace” organized by the UN Committee for the exercise of the inalienable rights of Palestinian people with the support of ECCP in the European Parliament.
- The EMHRN met the Commissioner in charge of external affairs, Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, on 18 December.
- The EMHRN organised a series of several major events on the occasion of its 10th anniversary in Brussels on 14-18 December, these included a press conference, WG meeting as well as a public seminar on freedom of association, a hearing in the European Parliament, a presentation at the council MAMA group and a reception.
- The EMHRN attended the EU Human rights Discussion Forum in Portugal (6-7 December).
- It presented its recommendations for the European Parliament's Annual Human Rights Report at a NGO consultation meeting on 20 December.
- In addition the EMHRN organised 3 training seminars on the ENP in 2007 followed by two public seminars in 2007.

In April 2007, the EMHRN organised a training session in Ramallah, as well as a second training session in Tel Aviv on the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Each training session gathered around 20 representatives of human rights NGOs from Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Europe. Representatives of the EC delegations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem also participated in part of the trainings in Ramallah and Tel Aviv.

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network held a seminar on *The EU-Israel Action Plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): What is the impact of the EU-Israel Action Plan on Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory?* on 18 April 2007 (see under Palestine, Israel and Palestinians)

As mentioned above a delegation of NGOs from Israel and the West Bank visited the Eu institutions on 25-27 June 2007 to present and discuss the report of the seminar as well as the Third EMHRN Annual Review on Human Rights in EU Israel relations.

On 25 October the EMHRN organised a training session on human rights mechanisms in EU-Morocco relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy (“Les Mécanismes des droits de l'Homme dans les relations UE-Maroc et la Politique européenne de voisinage”). The training seminar gathered 26 participants, representatives of human rights NGOs in Morocco. Representatives of the EU Commission's delegation in Rabat also participated in the training. It was conducted by Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy director of the EMHRN, with experts' intervention focusing on human rights and the EU.

This training session was followed by a seminar on the EU-Morocco Partnership: (25 -26 October) Assessing the EU-Morocco Action Plan under the European Neighbourhood Policy (“*Le Partenariat Maroc-UE: Evaluation du Plan d'action Maroc-UE dans le cadre de la Politique européenne de voisinage*”), co-organised by the EMHRN and the Moroccan Euromed NGO Network (Réseau marocain euromed des ONG). The seminar was attended by about 150 representatives of Moroccan civil society, as well as representatives of the Moroccan government, the EU Commission delegation in Morocco and the embassies of Portugal and France, the countries holding the current and next presidencies of the EU. A representative of an NGO from Jordan also described the situation in Jordan.

A delegation of Moroccan Members and EMHRN representatives presented and discussed the report of the seminar with the EU and Member States representatives in Brussels on 25-28 November 2007. The NGO representatives were Nabia Haddouchi, Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc, Hamid Bouhaddouni, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains and Youssef El Bouhairi, Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains.

First half of 2008

- After 4 months of continuous lobbying of all political groups by the EMHRN, the European Parliament adopted an urgent resolution on Egypt at its January session. It reiterates many concerns expressed by the EMHRN. This resolution led to a strong critical reaction from the Egyptian authority that was largely covered by the Egyptian and the European media.

The EMHRN issued statements in cooperation with its local members on the occasion of association council meetings between the EU and Jordan, Israel and Lebanon.

- The Brussels office facilitated the open seminar of the Justice working group in February (see under Justice)
- The Commission issued country evaluation reports of the ENP Action Plans in April 2008. A call for information on the implementation of the Action Plans priorities was launched on the ENP website. Due to the too short deadlines no substantial paper was released by the EMHRN but the EMHRN sent a letter referring to the EMHRN's last reports and asking for an effective consultation of civil society in the future
- The EMHRN had several meetings with the various country desks, the human rights unit and the ENP unit in the Commission during the first half of 2008, inter alia to advocate and discuss the human rights and migration chapters of the ENP action plans in view of the forthcoming Commission's evaluation.
- The EMHRN and B'tselem had meetings with the Commission on February 26 in order to advocate in view of the 3rd EU-Israel working group on human rights which took place on April 15. Following the EMHRN Working Group meeting on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians in Brussels from April 6-8, a delegation of 3 Israeli and Palestinian members stayed for advocacy meetings with the EU Institutions on April 9 and 10. They met representatives of the Commission, the European Parliament and made a presentation on the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT at the Council CIVCOM Working Group (dealing with civilian aspects of crisis management) as well as at the Council Maghreb/ Mashrek Working Group.
- The EMHRN was in contact with the European Parliament Mashrek delegation which went to Jordan from April 28 to May 3 2008 and met different NGOs.
- In view of the political subcommittee scheduled for June 2, the EMHRN, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) sent a note on the situation of the human rights in Egypt

The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission and Open Society institute in 2006. In 2007 the work was supported by the EU Commission, DanChurchAid, Swedish Churches and Trocaire. In the first half of 2008 by DANIDA and SIDA

10. Partnerships

The **human rights framework** of this activity is to encourage broad alliances of civil society groups from different constituencies and with different mandates to work together on the basis of explicit and practical adherence to international human rights standards.

The **general objective** is to develop efficient networks of civil society groups in the EuroMed region rooted in human rights values.

The **short term objective** is to actively maintain and develop partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region.

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

- Actively support the EuroMed NGO Platform to become an efficient network of networks of EuroMed civil society organisations
- Maintain and strengthen its close relations with the Human Rights and Democracy Network and other civil society organisations in Brussels.
- Maintain and strengthen its close relations with international human rights organisations Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the FIDH, OMCT, etc.
- Continue to develop partnerships with trade unions, private and political foundations, church based organisations such as the current partnerships with the Comisiones Obrerós, the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, the Aprove group, the Friedrich Ebert and Heinrich Böll Foundations
- Continue to support and host the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- Continue to support and host the Danish Network of NGOs working in relation to the Danish Initiative for Dialogue and Democratisation in the Arab World
- Alook into the use of other forums for dialogue and for promoting human rights values and standards, such as social forums and political platforms

Summary

The EMHRN fulfilled most of its short term objectives and it consolidated and developed relations with a wide range of actors in the region. Most efforts were put into supporting the EuroMed NGO Platform and contribute to the development of its internal coherence. The EMHRN also maintained close relations with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Several joint initiatives were taken with international human rights organisations in particular joint statements, and close relations were kept on a daily basis with the Human Rights and Democracy Network in Brussels.

The EMHRN did not have resources to further engage in social forums and political platforms, and it ceased hosting the Danish Network of NGOs upon decision of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Output 2006, 2007 and first half of 2008

- *Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region*
- *Relations consolidated with partners listed hereunder*

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders

2006

The EMHRN hosted the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders (founded by the EMHRN on 9 December 2004). EMHRN President, Kamel Jendoubi attended the board meetings of the Foundation as ordinary board member. Executive Director Marc Schade-Poulsen also attended the board meetings as an observer, in his capacity of temporary consultant for organisational matters of the Foundation (Paris, February 2006, Madrid, May 2006, Paris October 2006). They also attended the meeting of the Council of Representatives that was facilitated by the EMHRN following the EMHRN

General Assembly (for details, please consult the reports of the EMHRF on its Web Site, <http://www.emhrf.org/>).

2007

The EMHRN continued close cooperation with the EMHRF by hosting the Foundation at its secretariat and through EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi's membership of the EMHRN board. Many and frequent contacts were also maintained between the EMHRF and EMHRN members¹⁵.

First half of 2008

Cooperation continued as in 2007 and with an increase in EMHRF staff based in Copenhagen

EuroMed NGO Platform

2006

EC member Michel Tubiana held the secretary general post of the EuroMed NGO Platform and took part in its board and steering committee meetings. Michel Tubiana and Kamel Jendoubi also took part in the steering group meetings of the EuroMed Civil Forum that was held in Marrakech on 5-7 November 2006. EC members as well as the secretariat were also active in monitoring the development of the Platform.

The EMHRN was actively present at the Civil Forum in Marrakech, November 2006, which had four main themes: Peace; Migration; Democratisation and Human Rights; and Sustainable Development. EMHRN members/representatives were involved in the Peace workshop (Stefan Lütgenau), Migration (Mohammed En Najar; Mustapha Belbah, Kamel Jendoubi), and Democratisation and Human Rights (Mohamed Mouaqit, Sian Lewis Anthony, Khemais Chammari, Marc Schade-Poulsen). The EMHRN also co-organised a parallel workshop on gender with the IEMED (Kamel Jendoubi and Rabea Naciri) and on Freedom of Association with Fondation René Seydoux and the FEMEC (Marc Schade-Poulsen and Khemais Chammari). In addition staff persons Camilla Wass, Marc Degli (EMHRN) and Anne Sophie Schaeffer (EMHRF) attended the meeting. The Civil Forum issued a statement that can be found on the EMHRN web site. Reports from the civil forum will be published on the Platform's Web Site.

2007

EMHRN through its representative in the Board, Michel Tubiana, and its President, Kamel Jendoubi as well as different EMHRN members assisted by the Secretariat played an active role in the efforts to call for and organise a new General Assembly of the Platform aimed at revising the Platform's statutes, identify its core membership and elect a new Board. They were also active in supporting the Platform in overcoming the crisis caused by the unfortunate need to dismiss the general coordinator of the Platform by the end of spring 2007 and the need to seek ways for the Platform to keep going despite lack of donor support.

The general assembly of the Platform took place on 9-11 November 2007 in Madrid. Kamel Jendoubi and Michel Tubiana attended the General Assembly on behalf of the EMHRN. Michel Tubiana was re-elected member of the Board with Kamel Jendoubi as his replacement. The General Assembly adopted the activity report of the Board and new statutes establishing unambiguously that it is a network of networks.

2008

A board meeting of the Platform took place on 11-13 January 2008 in Rabat. The board constituted itself as follows: President Abdelmaksoud Rachdi (Moroccan EuroMed Platform), Vice President Gerarda Ventura (Italy, FEMEC), Secretary General Michel Tubiana, EMHRN, Treasurer, Magdy Abdel-Hamid Belal, Egyptian EuroMed Platform, Secretary. The board agreed to maintain the Platform's secretariat in France and to employ Pau Solanilla (dispatched from the IEMED in Barcelona) as coordinator in 2008. It also adopted a work plan for 2008 comprising organising the Civil Forum under the French Presidency of the EU.

- Nine members of the EuroMed NGO Platform, including the EMHRN, formed a consortium (under the lead of Acсур) and presented a bid for the EU Commission tender for the Regional Program, ENPI South, aiming

¹⁵ For details, please consult the reports of the EMHRF on its Web Site, <http://www.emhrf.org/>.

inter alia to enhance the capacity of civil society organisation to provide inputs to the Barcelona process and the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Consortium was selected to make a final bid.

Danish NGO Network

In 2006 The EMHRN hosted and directed the Danish NGO Network under the 'Arab Initiative' of the Danish Government. The Network coordinator issued bi-weekly newsletters on activities and debate regarding reform/dialogue in /with the Arab region. The network had a list of more than 400 subscribers in 2006 and also established a Web Site. By the end of the year and following a decision of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wishing to locate the Network in a Danish organisation and to strengthen the inter cultural information profile of the Network, and in full agreement with the EMHRN, the Danish NGO Network was transferred to the Danish Centre for Culture and Development.

2006, 2007 and first half of 2008

Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and International Human Rights Organisations

The EMHRN consolidated cooperation with the international human rights movement and actively forged alliances with civil society on a human rights agenda in Brussels. The EMHRN actively participated in the joint meetings of human rights and democracy NGOs in Brussels, in particular the working group dealing with the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

The EMHRN maintained good day-to-day working relations with international organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIDH, OMCT, Frontline et.al. in particular as concerns Brussels activities and release of common letters and recommendations.

Spanish civil society

- The EMHRN strengthened its cooperation with Spanish civil society.
- Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen represented the EMHRN at a meeting organised by the Spanish EuroMed Platform, IEMED and others Spanish organisations in Alicante, 26-27 October 2006. The meeting aimed at preparing recommendations for a FOROMED meeting of Foreign Ministers on the 27-28 October i.e. Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey.
- The EMHRN also cooperated with the Comisiones Obrerós and the Fundación Paz y Solidaridad on the project on employment and the right to work (see above). 15 Spanish civil society organisations were invited to attend the EMHRN general assembly in Madrid. Regular contacts have been maintained with IEMED, Acsur Las Segovias, the Spanish EuroMed Platform and other Spanish actors. As an outcome of the good contacts, the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN is held in Barcelona.

National Human Rights and Democracy Plan in Morocco

In late 2006 the EMHRN became part of a Consortium with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and EuroMed Network (a Brussels based consultancy firm), the latter being the lead agency, to present bid for a tender of the EU Commission to provide technical assistance for the development by the Moroccan Consultative Council for Human Rights (CCDH) of a national plan for human rights and democracy.

The EMHRN agreed to its participation after close consultation with its members in Morocco being members of the CCDH, i.e. the ADFM and the OMDH, the idea being that the EMHRN's participation should take place in partnership with the EMHRN members.

The Consortium won the bid and placed two experts in Rabat at the Documentation Centre for Human Rights leading the project under the CCDH in September 2007

Regretfully the project faced many delays due to the Parliamentary elections in autumn 2007, the fact the institutional set-up between the Documentation Centre and the CCDH had not been clarified, initial communication problems inside the Consortium, and problems establishing clear leadership of the process.

The EMHRN held several meetings with the CCDH and its member organisations in Morocco. It also attended and facilitated a national symposium on the national plan on 27-29 April in Rabat.

It was expected that the project will take off for good after Ramadan 2008.

Other EuroMed networks and initiatives

The EMHRN had regular contacts and meetings with EuroMesCo, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Aprove member organisations, Czech Association for International Affairs, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, The European Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine, La Maison de l'Europe, et al.

The EMHRN is grateful for the support by and cooperation with the many partners listed above

11. Executive Bodies and memberships

The **human rights framework** is to ensure the necessary means, resources and capacity of the executive bodies so that they can implement the objectives of the EMHRN and reflect the values upon which the Network is built.

The **general objective** is to

- implement the statutes and by-laws of the EMHRN transparently as regards decision-making and communication, and ensure the participation of members in implementing the EMHRN agenda
- ensure gender-mainstreaming of the EMHRN
- ensure that the EMHRN membership and strategy are in harmony with one another

The **short term objective** is to

- Maintain and strengthen the work of EMHRN executive bodies
- Develop an efficient internal communication practice promoting the 'democratic life' of the EMHRN
- See if there is a need to revise the membership of organisations and individuals who are not using or feeding into the EMHRN
- Define a proactive approach to new memberships

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

- Hold three annual EC meetings with an enlarged Executive Committee
- Hold three annual steering group meetings (President, Vice President and Treasurer) to monitor and supervise the daily management of the secretariat and to assist the President in his role as a working President
- Hold an annual meeting of heads and political referents of EMHRN working groups
- Employ an executive secretary for the executive bodies
- Employ an officer part responsible for internal communication
- Set up a gender mainstreaming policy of the EMHRN
- Revise the statutes with specific regard to membership criteria

Summary

The EMHRN achieved most of its objectives.. However it did not yet finalise a gender mainstreaming strategy but took several steps in that regard; it did not yet define a pro active approach to new memberships of the EMHRN, but initiated a critical view with regard to members who are not active in EMHRN work.

Output 2006

- *Holding of EMHRN General Assembly in May 2006*
- *Adoption of Political reports, Activity reports and financial reports.*
- *Adoption of EMHRN Strategy Document 2006-2010; Working program 2006-2008; Budget 2006-2007; Budget 2009-2010*
- *Increase in EMHRN membership, 9 new members adopted.*
- *Implementation of new organisational structure initiated*
- *Three executive committee meetings (Paris, Copenhagen, Petra)*
- *Three Steering group meetings*

Output 2007

- *Discussion of change of statutes and by-laws initiated*
- *Setting up of gender mainstreaming policy initiated*
- *Three Executive Committee meetings (Lisbon, Ljubljana, Brussels)*
- *One meeting of heads and political referents of EMHRN working groups*
- *Implementation of new organisational structure*
- *Three steering group meetings enlarged with EC member in charge of gender mainstreaming*

First half of 2008

- *One executive committee meeting (Casablanca)*
- *2 Steering group meetings*
- *New Draft Statutes and By-laws forwarded to EMHRN members for comments*

Executive Committee meetings, 2006

The EMHRN held three executive committee meetings in 2006

The meeting in Paris, 23-26 February 2006, basically consisted in setting-up plans for EMHRN work and prepare its general assembly in May 2006 taking into consideration the current political and human rights context in the region.

The meeting in Copenhagen, 4-6 August 2006, consisted in introducing new members of the Executive Committee to one another, informing the EC members of the projects and programmes of the EMHRN and planning future management of the current programs according to recommendations and feed-back of the EMHRN general assembly.

At the Executive Committee meeting in Petra, Jordan, on December 1-3 2006, the EC members discussed amongst other the key developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular the situation in Lebanon, Israel and Gaza, the results of the EMP Ministerial Meeting in Tampere, the Istanbul conference on women, and the Civil Forum in Marrakech. Furthermore, the reports from the Secretariat and a suggestion for an Action plan on internal and external communication were presented, and different suggestions to partnership agreements were discussed. Finally, the EC launched a process to revise the EMHRN statutes.

Executive Committee meetings in 2007

The EMHRN held three executive committee meetings in 2007:

The EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) convened in Lisbon, Portugal, on 15-16 March 2007. In January, Maria De Donato regretfully resigned from the Executive Committee. At the meeting, the EC members discussed key developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular the Arab reform process, the ENP and the follow-up to the Action plan on strengthening the role of women in society adopted at the Ministerial meeting in Istanbul in November 2006. Furthermore, the process of the preparations for the next EMHRN General Assembly in December 2008 was launched. On 18 March, the EC members, working group coordinators and conveners held a meeting in order to discuss a common EMHRN working group culture, the working group as a methodology, as well as the challenges that the different working groups face.

On September 28-30 2007, the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) convened in Ljubljana, Slovenia. At the meeting, the EC members discussed the EMHRN position paper for the EuroMed Ministerial meeting on migration on November 18-19. Furthermore, the Annual report and financial audit report 2006 were presented; the Work Program for 2008-2009 was adopted and a road map for the EMHRN's internal and external communication. Also, the preparations for the EMHRN's 10th anniversary (1997-2007) were discussed.

Finally, the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) convened in Brussels, Belgium, on December 14-16 2007. At the meeting, the EC members discussed the follow-up to the EMHRN summer school in Cyprus in 2007 and the possibility of creating an alert network on migrants and refugees. Furthermore, the EMHRN budget for 2008-2009 was adopted, the audited financial report 2006 signed by the EC members, and the EMHRN's internal draft staff regulations were discussed. The EC also continued the process of amending and updating the Statutes and the By-laws of the EMHRN. Finally the EC meeting was the occasion to celebrate the EMHRN's 10th anniversary by inviting former EC members to attend part of the EC meeting.

The EMHRN's 10th Anniversary

In preparation of the Anniversary the EMHRN published a special anniversary page on its Web Site including a short history of the EMHRN, an anniversary program and a photo gallery of members. It also printed a 10th anniversary poster and distributed an EMHRN USB key.

A number of events were organised in Brussels to celebrate the EMHRN's 10th anniversary. The EMHRN had a meeting with the Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner and a Cabinet member of EP President Poettering. A presentation was also made by the EMHRN on freedom of association to the EU Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group. Several EMHRN representatives made presentations in the human rights subcommittee of the European Parliament. A press conference and a reception were also organised and linked to the events on Freedom of Association that took place at the same time.

First half of 2008

In the first half of 2008, the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) convened in Casablanca, Morocco, on April 18-20 2008. At the meeting, the EC members discussed amongst other the key developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the EMHRN's position in relation to the ENP as well as future activities in this regard, the follow-up to the Istanbul Action plan, and the proposal to initiate an Alert mission on migrant and refugees. The EC also continued the preparations for the General Assembly and discussed a new draft version of the EMHRN By laws and Statutes to be distributed to the EMHRN members for their comments shortly.

In relation to the EC meeting, the EMHRN organised a reception on 18 April in honour of the first EMHRN President, Abdelaziz Bennani, with the participation of EMHRN member organisations, partners and friends in Morocco. Several speeches were held to pay tribute to Abdelaziz Bennani.

- All EC meetings have been occasions for the EMHRN to set-up meetings with EMHRN members and civil society organisations in the countries of concern as well as with government and EU representatives.
- The EC furthermore established the practice of issuing a statement on key questions regarding the human rights situation in the region following its meetings.

- The question of gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN was the subject of several EC meetings. Initiatives in that regard are mentioned above under the gender WG activities. The EMHRN is now in the process of establishing a gender audit of the Network that will enable it to establish a strategy for the EMHRN.
- Minutes of the meetings have all been made available to the membership and the public on the EMHRN web site.
- In between the EC meetings, steering group meetings have been held in Copenhagen in order to facilitate management of the EMHRN. Prior to the General Assembly in 2006 the Steering group was composed of EMHRN President, Vice President and Treasurer. Following the General Assembly the steering was enlarged to include EC members in charge of gender mainstreaming¹⁶.

12. EMHRN membership applications and resignations

The EMHRN has, throughout the period, received applications for membership of the EMHRN. The Executive Committee studied the applications and the GA in Madrid adopted the following organizations and individuals as members of the EMHRN.

2006

Regular Members:

- ACSUR Las Segovias, Association for Co-operation with the South, Spain
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, PNA
- Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Jordan
- Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH), Morocco
- Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD), Tunisia
- Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie, Algeria
- Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, Spain
- Humanist Committee on Human Rights, (HOM), Netherlands (now Aim for Human Rights)
- Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims RCT, Denmark

Associate Members:

- Iraqi Human Rights Society, Denmark
- Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta, Malta

Individual Members:

- Jon Rud, lawyer, Norway/Spain
- Negad El-Borei, lawyer, Egypt
- Georges Assaf, lawyer, Lebanon

In 2007 and 2008 the EC decided to recommend to the next GA that the following organisations are adopted as new members:

Regular members

- Amera, UK and Egypt
- Damascus Centre for Human Rights Studies, Syria
- Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, Cyprus
- Kvinna til Kvinna, Sweden

¹⁶ In 2006 meetings were held on 29 March and 29 October; in 2007 on 8 February, 9 May and 16 November. In the first half of 2008 meetings were held on 22 February and 24 June.

Individual members

Madjid Benchikh, Law Professor, Algeria

Resignation of EMHRN membership

Since the EMHRN General Assembly in 2003, the following organisations and individual members had not been in contact with the EMHRN. Prior to the General Assembly the EMHRN forwarded a letter to each member and asked if they intended to continue membership of the EMHRN (providing a ten days dead line to respond). The EMHRN received no reply and the General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, terminated the membership of the following:

Regular Members:

- Danish Helsinki Committee, Denmark
- Italian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Italy

Individual Members:

- Hans Kjellund, Denmark
- Moncef Marzouki, Tunisia
- Philip Rudge, United Kingdom
- Mohammed Tahri, Algeria

Since the 2006 General Assembly the following organisations have not been active in the EMHRN or have ceased to exist. The EMHRN has contacted each organisation by registered letter with a three weeks dead line for responding. Based on the lack of reply (or nature of reply) it recommends to the General Assembly to cease the membership of the following organisations:

Regular members

- Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK, United Kingdom
- Comité International pour la Paix en Algérie, regional
- Danish United Nation Association, Denmark
- Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights, Lebanon
- International Association for the Protection of Human Rights, Cyprus
- Jeunesse Maghrébine, Belgium
- Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center

Withdrawal

- Greek Helsinki Monitor withdrew its membership of the EMHRN in October 2008. A note on the GHM's withdrawal was sent to all EMHRN members by the end of October 2008

Associate members

- International Helsinki Committee (ceased its activities in 2007)

Individual members

- The EC recommends ceasing the individual membership of Aktham Naisse, CDF Syria, following the split of CDF in 2006 and following unfounded public attacks made against EMHRN member organisations.

13. Administration

The **human rights framework** of this activity is to build an efficient and resourceful administration enabling the EMHRN to fully implement its human rights objectives and visions.

The **general objective** is to provide administrative support to all areas of the EMHRN enabling the EMHRN to fully implement its strategy

The **short term objective** is to set up the necessary structures to implement the work program of the EMHRN and to strengthen its capacity to respond proactively to changing situations in the region in terms of human rights and democratization issues

The EMHRN will work to

- Set up a new organizational structure, including strengthening the executive's capacity to monitor and proactively respond to changes in the human rights situation in the region
- Ensure long term and diversified funding for the EMHRN and draft a strategy in this regard
- Strengthen the development of two EMHRN antennas in the South
- Implement a staff development plan

Summary of Achievements

The EMHRN fulfilled most of its objectives. It set up a new organisational structure although it proved more cumbersome than expected due to a sudden change in several staff position in the first half of 2007. It consolidated its antennas in the South, but did not yet implement a staff development plan, due to the said changes in its composition. Finally, it succeeded in diversifying its funding sources.

2006

In 2006, the EMHRN initiated implementation of its new organisational structure (**see annex**). In June 2006 Marit Floe Joergensen initiated her position as program director, and Sandrine Grenier her position as advocacy director while Maibritt Damgaard Nielsen took-up the position as executive secretary (during the maternity leave of Sannie Sahl). Fabrice Liebaut was employed as coordinator for EMHRN projects on 1 April 2006 and Ruba Akkiela as gender coordinator on 1 August 2006 in Amman, by which the EMHRN opened its second antenna in the South Mediterranean region. Lars Zbinden Hansen was employed as administrative coordinator on 31 July 2006 and Marc Degli Esposti as communication coordinator (30 hours per week). During the year Berit Spanggård and Aminda Adan were employed as student assistants from 1 January to 30 June 2006.

2007

Partly as a consequence of the rapid growth of the EMHRN and partly due to the need to revise the employment of some staff members a number of changes had to be made in the staff during 2007 which regretfully created periods where the secretariat was not working in an optimal way.

On 31 December 2006 Line Gamrath Rasmussen resigned from her post as coordinator of HRE as she found new employment abroad. She was replaced by Nour Hemici on 1 January 2007.

On February 2007 Habib Belkouch and Nadia Sebti resigned from the antenna in Rabat as coordinators of the work on migrants and refugees' rights. They were replaced by Chadi Sidhom in April 2007

On 31 December 2006 Ashraf Mikhail, IT coordinator, resigned from his position for full time employment elsewhere. He was replaced by Aws Muhsin on 1 January 2007.

On 1 May Nels Lyngsoe, Controller, was dismissed and temporarily replaced by Poul Collemorten until November 2007, and from November to the end of the year by Nina Kryger. Most of their functions were taken over by Sune Rolsted in his function as Head of Administration on 1 January 2008

On 1 May Sannie Sahl had to stop her work for the EMHRN due to an operation that regrettably disabled her. She was replaced by Maibritt Damgaard Nielsen.

On 1 June, Marita Roos resigned from her post as coordinator for the PIP WG group to continue her studies. The EMHRN was regrettably not in a position to find the right replacement for her until June 2008.

On 1 August Lars Zbinden Hansen resigned from his position to travel abroad with his family. Part of his functions was taken over by Mary Chowdury, administrative secretary, in October 2008.

On 31 August Ruba Akkiela was dismissed from her position as coordinator of the Gender WG. She was temporarily replaced by Samah Helmy from 1 September to 31 December 2007.

In September 2007 Thibault Guillet took over the post of coordinator on Freedom of Association which had been shared until then by Nour Hemici and Fabrice Liebault

First half of 2008

The staff situation in the EMHRN became stable in 2008 except for the administrative department.

In June 2008 Nathalie Stanus was employed as coordinator in Brussels of EMHRN work on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians.

On 1 May 2008 Sune Rolsted was dismissed from his position as head of administration. His position was taken up by Poul Collemorten.

Also Marie Chowdury was dismissed from her position on 1 August and Aws Muhsin resigned on 1 September 2008. They have been replaced by respectively Migena Jacobsen and Per Frank Hansen.

- The Staff met for joint training and planning meetings on four occasions

In all, the EMHRN is now staffed by:

Full time

Management

1. Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, Ph.d, Mag.Art, in Anthropology, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 1997)
2. Program Director, Marit Floe Joergensen, MA in Contemporary Arabic Studies and International Relations (with the EMHRN since 1999)
3. Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy Director, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2001)
4. Poul Collemorten, Head of Administration , Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)

Coordinators

5. Project Coordinator for European Neighbourhood Policy. Emilie Dromzee, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2005)
6. Project Coordinator for Justice, Fabrice Liebaut, Master Degree in Law, Admitted as Lawyer to the French Bar (with the EMHRN since 2006)
7. Project Coordinator for Human Rights Education , Nour Hemici, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
8. Project Coordinator, Chadi Sidhom; MA in Business administration Rabat (with the EMHRN since 2007)

9. Project Coordinator for Freedom of Association Mr. Thibaut Guillet MA International and European Law of Human Rights, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
10. Lina Al Qurah, Director of Gender projects, Gender specialist, Amman (with the EMHRN since 2007)
11. Nathalie Stanus Project coordinator for Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, Licence in Political science – International relations, Master in European Studies, DEA (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies)

Executive staff

12. Communication Officer, Marc Degli Esposti, Journalist, (with the EMHRN since 2006)
13. Executive Secretary, Maibritt Damgaard Jensen, MA (LSP) in French, BA in English, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2002)

Administrative staff

Per Frank Hansen, IT coordinator (part time), Engineer, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2008)

Migena Jacobsen, MA in business administration Book-keeper and administrative secretary,

Funding

The EMHRN took several steps towards diversifying and stabilizing its funding sources, although its income were less than expected in 2007. However, in the second part of 2007 DANIDA and SIDA agreed to provide basket funds to the EMHRN to support the implementation of its work program for 2008 and 2009. The EMHRN expects basket funding to continue if a planned external evaluation of the EMHRN in late 2008 is successful.

At the same time the EMHRN is in a good position with regards to activity funding by the EU. It is also took new contacts to donors in Spain and France with a view to establish longer term relations. Finally, the EMHRN maintains regular contact with private foundations and development organisations.

Acknowledgements

In the reported period the Network received support from the following donors to which the EMHRN is deeply grateful:

In 2006

DANIDA; EU Commission; SIDA; UNHCR; Spanish International Development Agency The Ford Foundation; The Open Society Institute; Novib; ICCO; DanChurchAid; Diakonia, Sweden; Ministry of Justice, Belgium; The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Fundación Paz y Solidaridad

In 2007

SIDA, DANIDA; EU Commission; Ministry of Justice, Belgium; The Ford Foundation; DanChurchAid; Church of Sweden; ICCO; Trocaire

First half of 2008

SIDA, DANIDA, EU Commission, Ford Foundation, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Catalan Development Agency; Heinrich Böll Foundation.

14. Annexes

➤ Annex 1: Presentation of new members

- a. Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies, Syria

8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network Barcelona 12-14 December 2008

Presentation of new EMHRN members

Please place the Mouse in the boxes below and insert the requested information

(max 2 pages)

Date 20/8/2008

Name of the new EMHRN member Damascus Center for Human Rights studies (DCHRS)

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

EMHRN's contact person within the organisation (if organisation): Radwan Ziadeh

Address of the member organisation/ individual member: Syria - Damascus

Established (if organisation) Born (if individuals)/ in (year): 2005

Legal status of organisation not registered

Number of members 12

Number of staff 10

List of board members within the organisation Radwan Ziadeh - Razan Zaytouna - Hazem Nahar - Ahmad Chourbajie - Olaa Ramadan - Mustafa Haied - Fady Khahlous - Bachar Issa - Huseen Isaa - Anjela Alchoufie .

The member organisation/ individual member's motivation for applying for EMHRN membership (max. 5-6 lines):

- Strengthening relations between the Centre and human rights organizations in northern and southern Mediterranean .
Opening opportunities for cooperation between the Centre and the organizations with common goals.
Trying to promote respect for human rights in Syria and the Mediterranean region through pressure on policies .
Take advantage of the opportunities offered by the network to its members with regard to skills training and educational opportunities.
Contribute through the network to make the human rights concepts universal and make a pressure to include this concepts legally .

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights objectives:

- DCHRS foster a spirit of support and respect for the values & standards of human rights in Syria. DCHRS advance the culture of human rights in Syrian society through sponsoring a range of academic and theoretically-oriented programs. DCHRS undertakes studies and research projects that address Syrian legislation, Arab and international legal issues, and international human rights agreements. DCHRS is explicitly opposed to any type of human rights violation as specified by the Syrian constitution and/or the relevant international agreements. DCHRS will monitor such violations, and attempt to eliminate their presence through all of the available legal and peaceful channels. DCHRS holds conferences and workshops relating to issues of human rights, democracy, and judicial independence. Periodically, the center will offer specialized training in such areas.

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights activities:

- The Program for Youth and Human Rights: This program aims to: Build up human rights education and promote it among Syrian youth to develop their awareness of human rights issues and democracy
The Program for Supporting Civil Society and Political Parties in Syria
DCHRS launched a website with the following address: www.dchrs.com. Its contents are displayed in both Arabic and English, and contains a database of essays, translations, studies, and electronic books. In addition, it supports campaigns and activities of various NGOs within Syria.
Al-Bosela: a monthly publication. Each issue specializes in discussing a certain subject or argument related to human rights, democracy, and judicial independence.
Reports: Providing specialized reports which focus on certain cases concerning human rights violations.

The presentation is written by Radwan Ziadeh

b. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus

**8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
Barcelona 12-14 December 2008**

Presentation of new EMHRN members

Please place the Mouse in the boxes below and insert the requested information

(max 2 pages)

Date 18/82008

Name of the new EMHRN member Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

EMHRN's contact person within the organisation (if organisation): Susana Pavlou

*Address of the member organisation/ individual member: 46 Makedonitissas Avenue, P.O.Box 24005, 1703
Nicosia Cyprus*

Established (if organisation) Born (if individuals)/ in (year): 2004

Legal status of organisation NGO

Number of members N/A

Number of staff 3 full time staff and 7 external consultants

List of board members within the organisation Dr Myria Vassiliadou, Nicos Peristianis, Dr Alexia
Panayiotiou, Dr Miranda Christou, Dr George
Terzis

The member organisation/ individual member's motivation for applying for EMHRN membership (max. 5-6 lines):

- MIGS is dedicated to the promotion of Human Rights and in particular women's rights and empowerment in the Euro-Mediterranean Region within the framework of the Barcelona Process. With extensive experience on the promotion of women's rights MIGS can make a valuable contribution to the Network as well as benefit from the exchange of experience and knowledge among the Network.

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights objectives:

- Stimulate interest in gender research in the Mediterranean region and identify key areas of concern and action in the area;
- Identify the need to develop new legislation that corresponds to the new conditions and protects women's rights effectively;

- Increase awareness of gender issues in civil society and facilitate the capacity for action by providing all interested parties with information and organising training, campaigns, seminars, workshops, and lectures
- Develop methods and take initiatives on peace-building and conflict transformation as these relate to gender issues
- Systematically address, analyse, and conduct research on, for, and by women; review and use existing information on women and the gender system such as research, statistical information and other available data and make relevant recommendations on policy and practices in related areas. Support gender research through library and documentation services, including the introduction and promotion of a system of data collection by gender

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights activities:

- Civil Society Programme: Within the framework of this Programme MIGS promotes initiatives which strengthen and enhance civil society participation and that empower women. Our activities focus on combating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, gender and migration, women in the labour market and gender and the media.
- Education and Leadership Programme: Within the framework of this programme MIGS promotes initiatives aimed at promoting women in political leadership and participation. Activities include training and workshop for young women, mentoring programmes, among others.
- Trans-national Peace Initiatives: Within the framework of this programme MIGS gives priority to the following areas: gender and peace making, policy making and ethnic identities, minority rights, gender and conflict among others.

The presentation is written by Josie Chirstodoulou

c. AMERA, United Kingdom

8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
Barcelona 12-14 December 2008
Presentation of new EMHRN members

Please place the Mouse in the boxes below and insert the requested information

(max 2 pages)

Date 22/8/2008

Name of the new EMHRN member African and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA)

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

EMHRN's contact person within the organisation (if organisation): Dr. Barbara E. Harrell-Bond, OBE

Address of the member organisation/ individual member: 13 Dron House, Adelina Grove, London E1 3AA

Established (if organisation) Born (if individuals)/ in (year): Begun in 2000 as Refugee Legal Aid Project (RLAP) in Egypt; in 2003 AMERA was registered as a Charity in the UK, 2004 RLAP became AMERA Egypt.

Legal status of organisation Charity in the UK No. 109878; Amera Egypt operates under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but has never received a registration number, as is the case with most human rights NGOs in Egypt.

Number of members AMERA UK is totally responsible for funding AMERA Egypt, but also partially funds the Refugee Law Project in Uganda although not formally a 'member' of AMERA.. It aims to add one more refugee legal aid NGO in the south each year. AMERA UK has also initiated the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network (SRLAN) to promote the establishment of refugee legal aid in countries in the global south. As AMERA UK, the SRLAN is conducting active lobbying at the International Council for Voluntary Agencies/Geneva, where SRLA representatives are invited as AMERA 'associates'. The SRLAN has has three meetings since it founding meeting in and membership will be formalized in the next year. Plans are to associate the SRLAN with FAHAMU ([www..Fahamu.org](http://www.Fahamu.org)) from September 2008 and Fahamu will seek membership in the EMHRN.

Number of staff 2 in the UK; 20 in Egypt

List of board members within the organisation Philip Rudge, Ian Barby, Stephanie Grant, H.R.H Princess Badiya El Hassan, Sherif Elsayed-Ali, Barbara Harrell-Bond,OBE, Coordinator of SRLAN, Caroline Moorehead, OBE, Co-Chair, Guglielmo Verdirame, Co-Chair, Marta Mueller Guicciardini, Treasurer - see www.amera-UK.org for biographical information on each AMERA UK Board members.

The member organisation/ individual member's motivation for applying for EMRHN membership (max. 5-6 lines):

- To collaborate with its specific work on migrants and refugees and to benefit from its longer establishment in the Middle East to promote the human rights of refugees - the philosophy behind our work is that if the violation of rights for one of the most marginalized populations of the world are addressed there will be improvements in the human rights situation for all. There has been a tendency for the human rights movement to ignore refugee populations and AMERA would hope to influence human rights organizations to recognize that refugees should enjoy all human rights along with everyone else.

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights objectives:

- To promote the observance of refugee rights according to international refugee and human rights law through providing legal aid to individual refugees in pursuing their rights to asylum; expand the number of NGOs in the global south that are providing these services; promote the observance of the rights detailed in the 1951 Convention and international human rights law in countries which have ratified the Convention; promote the ratification of the 1951 Convention in those countries which have not done so; promote the expansion of the teaching of refugee/human rights law in universities, especially in the global south (in 1982 there were only two universities in the world where refugee law was taught as a subject - University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre and Osgoode School of Law, Toronto, Canada - while the numbers have expanded, there are still only a handful in the global south); to expand the reach of the SRLAN to other human rights networks in the world; provide channels for lobbying against the violations of human rights of refugees; develop, with FAHAMU, a distance learning course in refugee law; continue to monitor the procedural standards applied by both UNHCR and states (see www.rsdwatch.org); and generally to work towards protection the institution of asylum which is under such threat in the world as a whole.

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights activities:

- AMERA Egypt provides legal assistance and psycho-social support to refugees. It has a minor's focal point dealing with separated children, an SGBV focal point deal with refugees who suffer rape, domestic violence, and discrimination as a result of sexual orientation; it writes appeals against rejection and for reopening of 'closed files'; it visits refugees in prison, providing them with food and reporting/lobbying for these detentions to UNHCR; because of its insecure registration status, it lobbies against violations of refugee rights through Ambassadors in Egypt who represent member countries of the UNHCR's ExCom, through sister NGOs in Egypt, Amnesty, MAWG, FAHAMU, FIDH, Human Rights Watch; and it also monitors UNHCR's lack of procedural justice in refugee status determination (RSD) through its participation in the NGO Consultations in Geneva. AMERA UK provides funding to AMERA Egypt and to the Refugee Law Project in Uganda (www.refugeelawproject.org) that provides the same services as above, plus a research programme, refugee rights training programme for all actors that deal with refugees in their daily work, e.g. police and NGOs. Through the SRLA Network, AMERA UK links a growing number of refugee agencies around the world, exchanging information (e.g. on specific cases, country of origin information, urgent policy issues, and training materials for interpreters and on refugee law. With FAHAMU, it will develop the SRLA Network on its website beginning September 2008.

The presentation is written by Dr. Barbara E. Harrell-Bond, OBE

d. Kvinna till Kvinna, Sweden

8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
Barcelona 12-14 December 2008
Presentation of new EMHRN members

Please place the Mouse in the boxes below and insert the requested information

(max 2 pages)

Date 14/102008

Name of the new EMHRN member The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

EMHRN's contact person within the organisation (if organisation): Sara Lhådö, programme coordinator Middle East; sara.lhado@kvinnatillkvinna.se

Ida Udovic, programme coordinator Israel/Palestine; ida.udovic@kvinnatillkvinna.se

Address of the member organisation/ individual member: Slakthusplan 3, SE 121 62 Johanneshov, Sweden

Established (if organisation) Born (if individuals)/ in (year): 1995 (1993)

Legal status of organisation Swedish Foundation

Number of members We are not a member organisation but have 29 support organisations

Number of staff 32 of which 9 are based in our fields, South Kaukasus, The Balkans and the Middle East

List of board members within the organisation

President: Gerd Johnsson-Latham

Vice President: Maria Ermanno-Feldner

Regular Members: Ann-Cathrin Jarl , Magnus Jiborn, Agneta Johansson, Clara Mannheimer, Eva Nikell,

Deputy Members: Krister Eduards, Petra Tötterman Andorff, Mari Mörth, Maria Appelblom

The member organisation/ individual member's motivation for applying for EMHRN membership (max. 5-6 lines):

- The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation work with women's human rights, support of civil society and strengthen partnership and networking between women's organisations in the Middle East. We have two field offices in Jerusalem and Amman and support approximately 40 women organisations in the region. We want to learn from EMHRNs member organisations experience and knowledge as well as to share our expertise and knowledge about women's human rights in the region.

Together our voice will be stronger in order to advocate for women's human rights, A membership will broaden our possibilities to advocate and help us to follow the implementation of woman's human rights in the region

The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights objectives:

- Our mandate is:
To empower women in war and conflict-affected regions by enhancing their self-esteem, their mental and physical well-being and their participation in the creation of a democratic society.
To promote studies and research concerning the effects of war and armed conflict on women.
To provide information about the effects of war and to raise public opinion in favour of peaceful conflict resolution using non-military methods.

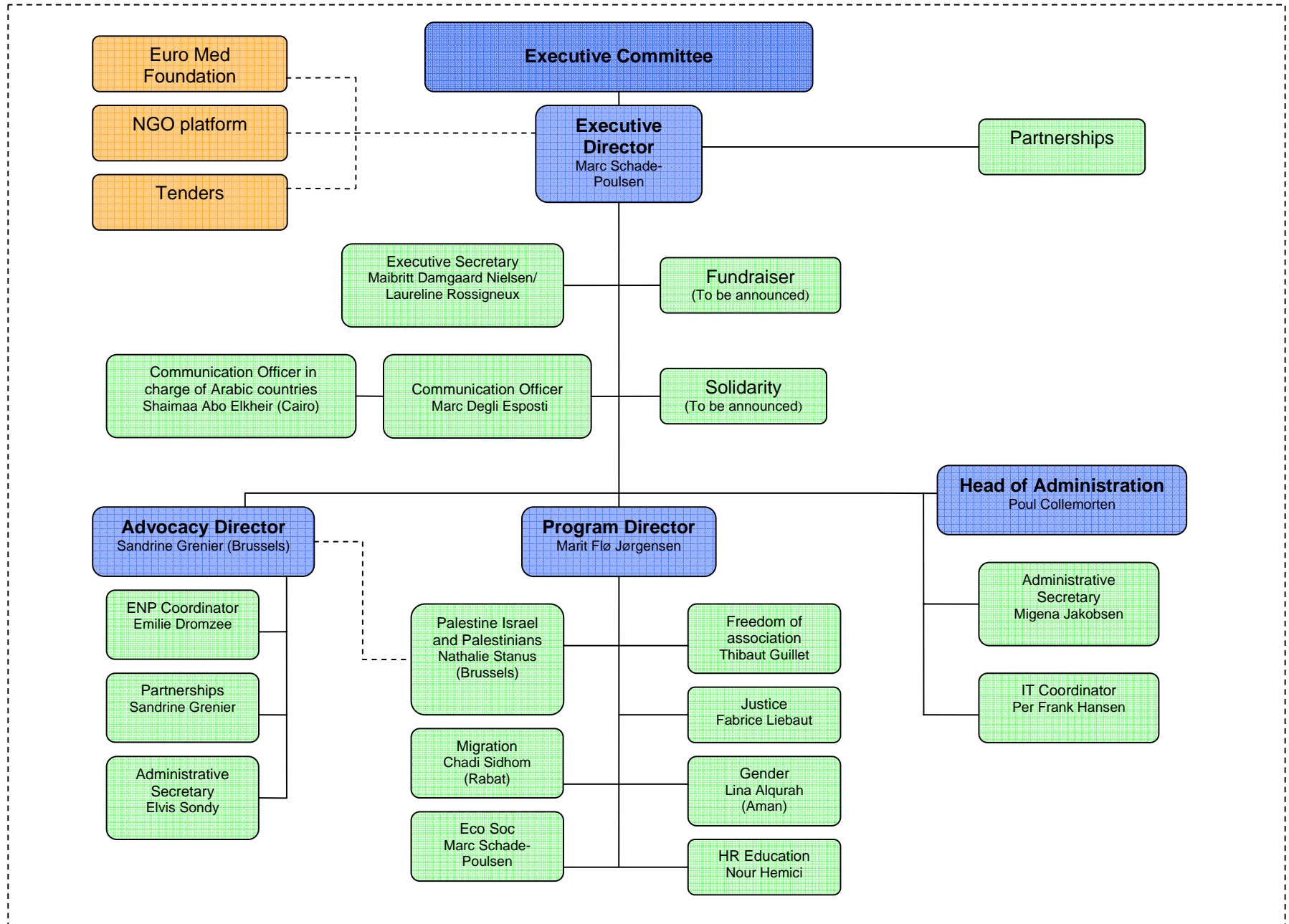
The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights activities:

- We support women organisations in the field of:
Violence against Women, Peace and Security
Women's Human Rights and Legislation
Women's Participation in Decision Making and Women's Organizing
through:

Networking /Information sharing
Creation of spaces for meetings
Financial support
Organisational development/capacity development
Lobbying and advocacy
Professional competence

The presentation is written by Sara Lhådö

➤ **Annex 2: Organizational chart**



➤ **Annex 3: Members of the working groups**

Working group	Name	Organization	Country
Gender and Women's rights	Alya Cherif Chamhari	Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité	Regional
	Sawsan Zaher	ADALAH (The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel)	Israel
	Nafsika Papanikolatos	Greek Helsinki Monitor	Greece
	Fatma Bouamaied	Committee for the Respect of Freedom and Human Rights in Tunisia	France
	Asma Khader	Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan	Jordan
	Nicole Savy	Human Rights League	France
	Tatiana San Millan	ACSUR -Las Segovias	Spain
	Tuomo Melasuo	TAPRI Mediterranean Studies Project	Finland
	Atika Ettaif	Moroccan Association for Human Rights	Morocco
	Yamina Raho	Algerian League for Human Rights	Algeria
	Dunia Khawla	Damascus Center for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies	Syria
	Rabea Naciri	EMHRN	
	Khadeja Errebah	Democratic Association of Moroccan Women	Morocco
	Islam Radayda	Amman Center for Human Rights studies	Jordan
	Khédija Chérif	Tunisian Association of Democratic Women	Tunisia
Migration and refugees			
	Tarek Bin Hiba	Committee for the Respect of Freedom and Human Rights in Tunisia	Tunisia
	Samira Trad	Individual member	Lebanon
	Sliman Bouchuiguir	Libyan League for Human Rights	Libya
	Abdeljelil Bedoui	National Council for Freedom in Tunisia	Tunisia
	Rola Badran	Palestinian Human Rights Organisation	Palestine
	Neji Marzouk	Tunisian League of Human Rights	Tunisia
	Hafidha Chékir	Tunisian Association of the Democratic Women	Tunisia
	Abdellatif Chahboun	Moroccan Organization of Human Rights	Morocco
	Ali Tabji	Moroccan Association of Human Rights	Morocco
	Saddik Lahrach	Espace Associatif	Morocco
	Nouzha Lamrani	Democratic Association of Women of Morocco	Morocco
	Polykarpou Doros	KISA (equality, antidiscrimination & fight against racism)	Cyprus
	Maria de Donato	Italian Refugee Council	Italy
	Catherine Teule	Human Rights League	France
	Borje Sjokvist	Swedish Refugee Aid	Sweden
	Anitta Kynsilehto	Tampere Peace Research Institute	Finland
	Barbara Harrell-Bond	Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance - AMERA	UK
	Marie Lavrentiadou	Greek Committee for International Democratic Society - EEDDA	Greece
	Alessia Angelini	ACSUR - Las Segovias	Spain
Palestine, Israel and Palestinians			
	Nina Attalah	EMHRN	
	Mohammed Zeidan	The Arab Association for Human Rights	Israel

	David Bondia Garcia	Federation of Associations for the Defense and the Promotion of Human Rights	Spain
	Maria Encinas	ACSUR -Las Segovias	Spain
	Eugenia Papamakariou	Greek Committee for International Democratic Society	Greece
	Zeev Zamir Orah Maggen	The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel	Israel
	Ma'ayan Geva	B'Tselem (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories)	Israel
	Per Stadig	Individual member	Sweden
	Stefan Luetgenau	Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights	Austria
	Maysa Zorob	Al-Haq	West Bank
	Ghassan Abdellah	Palestinian Human Rights Organisation	Lebanon
	Fatmeh Al'Ajou	ADALAH (The Legal Center for Arab Minority in Israel)	Israel
	Hamdi Shaqqura	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights	Gaza Strip
	Issam Younis	Al Mezan Center for Human Rights	Gaza Strip
Freedom of association			
	Ali Amar	Moroccan Association of Human Rights	Morocco
	Moataz El Fegiry	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Egypt
	Omar Mestiri	National Council for Freedom in Tunisia	Tunisia
	Osman Isci	Human Rights Association	Turkey
	Lis Dundhale	Danish Institute for Human Rights	Denmark
	Khalid Belkoh	Espace Associatif	Morocco
	Jan de Vries	Humanist Committee on Human Rights	Netherlands
	Anouar Kousri	Tunisian League of Human Rights	Tunisia
	Amina Bouayach	Moroccan Organization of Human Rights	Morocco
	Anne-Laurence Lacroix	Organisation mondiale contre la torture	Switzerland
	Danial Saoud	CDF	Syria
	Chammari Khemais	expert	
	Ali Amar	Moroccan Association of Human Rights	Morocco
Human Rights Education and Youth			
	Maya Ben Khaled	Arab Institute for Human Rights	Tunisia
	Antonia Papadopoulou	Greek Helsinki Monitor	Greece
	Zahra Radwan	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Regional
	Lubna Dawany	Sisterhood Is Global Institute/Jordan	Jordan
	Mehyar Mu'ayyad	Danish Institute for Human Rights	Denmark
	Omar Grech	MEDAC (Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Malta University)	Malta
	Louis Frankenthaler	Public Committee against Torture in Israel	Israel
	Valerie Duffy	80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World	Ireland
	Colm Regan	EMHRN	
	Amina Lemrini	Democratic Association of Moroccan Women	Morocco
	Baya Gacemi	Algerian League for Human Rights	Algeria
	Omar Qadora	Amman Centre for Human Right Studies	Jordan
	Nabil Dolmaye	CDF(Committees for the Defense of Freedoms in Syria)	Syria
Justice			
	Michel Tubiana	Human Rights League	France
	Wadiah al-Asmar	Solida	Lebanon
	Raed Al-Athamneh	Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies	Jordan
	Dolores Balibrea	Federation of Associations for the Defence and the	Spain

Perez	Promotion of Human Rights	
Houcine Bardi	Comité pour le respect des libertés et des droits de l'Homme en Tunisie	France
Noureddine Benissad	Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights	Algeria
Kirsty Brimelow	Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales	UK
Abbas Abbas	Damascus Centre for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies	Syria
Karim El Chazli	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Egypt / Regional
Mohammed El Haskouri	Moroccan Association of Human Rights	Morocco
Abdellah El Oualladi	Moroccan Organization of Human Rights	Morocco
Afaf Chamali	Palestinian Human Rights Organization	Lebanon
Mokhtar Trifi	Tunisian League of Human Rights	Tunisia
George Assaf	Individual member	
Madjid Benchikh	Individual member	
Anna Bozzo	Individual member	
Jon Rud	Individual member	
Caroline Stainier	Individual member	
George Assaf	Individual member	

➤ **Annex 4: List of donors**

- Belgian Ministry of Justice
- Catalan Development Agency
- Church of Sweden
- Danchurch Aid
- DANIDA
- Diakonia Sweden
- EU Commission
- Ford Foundation
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- Fundación Paz y Solidaridad
- Heinrich Böll Foundation.
- ICCO
- Novib
- Open Society Institute
- SIDA
- Spanish International Development Agency
- Swedish Churches
- Trocaire
- UNHCR

➤ **Annex 5: List of media quotes:**

News agencies

Reuters (UK), ADN Kronos International (Italy), Athens News Agency (Greece), Agence Europe's Bulletin Europe (Belgium)
(...)

Regional and International Media

Europe: EurActiv Brussels (Belgium)
Middle East: Business Intelligence Middle East (UAE)
Maghreb: Magharebia
Europe and US: Democracy Digest -The Bulletin of the Transatlantic Democracy (US)
(...)

National Media and news papers

Algeria: Echorouk online
Canada: Matinternet-Branchez-vous
France: Libération, RFI, France 24, L'Express, La Tribune
Lebanon: Daily Star
Malta: Times of Malta
Morocco: Le Reporter
Tunisia: Réveil Tunisien
US: World Tribune
(...)

➤ **Annex 6: Publications:**

2006

Achieving Gender Equality: Change is possible and necessary. 7 Nov 2006
European Neighborhood Policy - Human Rights in the EU-Egypt Action Plan: Recommendations from Egyptian NGOs. 1 March 2006
A Human Rights Review of the EU and Israel 2004-2005: Mainstreaming or Selectively Extinguishing Human Rights?

2007

Freedom of association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region
Human Rights in the EU-Morocco Action Plan under the European Neighbourhood Policy
NGO Assessment and Recommendations for the Implementation of the Action Plan
The EU-Israel Action Plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy: What is the impact of the EU-Israel Action Plan on Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories? Training & Seminar, April, 2007
Third annual review on Human Rights in EU/Israel relations -Accommodating to the 'special' case of Israel
Training guide on human rights instruments in Euro-Mediterranean relations. Mars 2007

2008

Human Rights Education in the Euromed region
The Initiatives in the Field of Judicial Reform in the Euro-Mediterranean Region
Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary- Morocco
Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary - Jordan
Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary- Tunisia

Other publications

Creation of two webpages dedicated to Human Rights Education summer schools, 15 on Freedom of association, 3 on the tenth anniversary and one on justice (all of them in three languages)
Two reports and 9 filmed interviews
Video page on Dailymotion <http://www.dailymotion.com/euomedrights>
More than 100 weekly news bulletins since October 2006
8 bimonthly newsletter since March 2007

➤ **Annexe 7: Press releases and statements:**

2006

Tunisia: A passport for Kamel Jendoubi	14-11-2006
Gender Equality - Change is Possible!	07-11-2006
Recommendations on Achieving Gender Equality	19-10-2006
International Conference on Employment and the Right to Work blocked in Tunisia	09-09-2006
Mission of Solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli members	29-08-2006
Delegation sent to Lebanon to show its solidarity with Lebanese Civil Society	23-08-2006
Deep concern about the situation in Lebanon and Gaza	07-08-2006
Escalating Violations against Civilians	24-07-2006
Joint appeal by EMHRN FIDH and the Euromed NGO Platform	10-07-2006
Severe violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip	04-07-2006
Association Council between the EU and Israel	13-06-2006
Human Rights NGOs ask to be recognized as fully fledged partners of the ENP	03-06-2006
Egypt: campaign against reform advocates	01-06-2006
Arrests against human rights defenders in Syria	19-05-2006
Human Rights Defenders to focus on democratic reform and the security of people in the Euro-Mediterranean region	18-05-2006
Should the Palestinians be punished?	12-04-2006
Joint open letter on the occasion of the association council between EU and Lebanon	11-04-2006
Implementation of the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement	29-03-2006
Association council between EU and Algeria	14-03-2006
Meeting with the Tunisian Foreign Minister	06-03-2006
Reasserting human rights principles is urgent	06-03-2006
Cartoons in the Danish Newspaper Jyllandsposten	06-02-2006
EU-Egyptian Negotiations on the ENP Action Plan	28-01-2006
EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi Harassed	03-01-2006

2007

International Migrants Day: Preserve the rights of all migrants	19-12-2007
Statement on the occasion of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network's 10th anniversary	17-12-2007
Syria must stop repression against human rights defenders	14-12-2007
Former Colonel Mohammed Samraoui faces prosecution by the Spanish Judiciary	28-11-2007
Safeguarding the rights of migrants and refugees must be put as a priority	16-11-2007
Open letter before the Euro-Mediterranean conference on migration (In French)	12-11-2007
Open letter in view of the EU-Tunisia Association Council (In French)	12-11-2007
Assessment and implementation of the UE-Morocco Action Plan in the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy: Involvement of the Moroccan civil society	29-10-2007
EMHRN's note in view of the sub-committee on political dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Israel	19-10-2007
Euromed Ministerial Conference on Migration: Analytical note and recommendations	11-10-2007
A disturbing deterioration on all fronts	02-10-2007
Rescue At Sea: High-Risk Activity (Follow up)	18-09-2007
Egypt: Shameful attempt to silence human rights defenders	10-09-2007
Tunisia: Open letter to the President of the Republic (In French)	07-09-2007
Rescue At Sea: High-Risk Activity	04-09-2007
The office of lawyer Ayachi Hammami damaged by arson	03-09-2007
Israel Denies Freedom of Movement to Human Rights Defenders from Gaza	04-09-2007
EMHRN Mission to the OPT	06-08-2007
A new generation of Human Rights Defenders	24-07-2007
Morocco: Release the prisoners of opinion (in French)	20-07-2007

PCHR office severely damaged during air raid by Israeli forces	31-05-2007
Iraqi Refugees: Necessary Protection	11-05-2007
Representatives of the civil society must be respected	10-05-2007
Human rights flouted in Syria	09-05-2007
Lebanon must implement its human rights commitments	20-04-2007
The European Union and Israel should implement their human rights commitments within the framework of the EU-Israel action plan	18-04-2007
Open letter at the occasion of the EU - Algeria association council	18-04-2007
Israel disregards its own commitments	10-04-2007
Tunisia: A blank cheque for the Tunisian government!	10-03-2007
Steps towards achieving gender equality	03-03-2007
Open letter on the occasion of the Association Council between EU and Israel	27-02-2007
Tunisia: Exploiting the Judicial System for Political Ends (LTDH Crisis)	21-02-2007
Omar Mestiri in the clutches of the Tunisian regime	15-08-2007
Open Letter before the EU/Morocco Association Council (in French)	20-07-2007
EMHRN position on the 5 years action plan adopted at the Euromed Ministerial conference on strengthening the role of women in society in Istanbul November 2006	13-04-2007
Turkey: Judiciary harassment against Osman Baydemir	12-04-2007
The Euro-Mediterranean Human rights Network condemns attacks against civilians	02-02-2007

2008

The United Against Torture Coalition and the Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network call upon the European Union for urgent action on the closure of the Nafha Society for the Defense of Prisoners and Human Rights in Nablus	13-08-2008
A delegation of the EMHRN discussed the new Law on Societies during a visit in Jordan	01-08-2008
Letter at the occasion of the Association Council EU/Jordan	30-07-2008
Algeria must reconsider its draft law	16-07-2008
Call on heads of States of the European Union	14-07-2008
A new Tunisian human rights activist harassed at the Tunis-Carthage airport	07-07-2008
Syria: Ongoing judicial and administrative harassment against Mr. Mazen Darwish	17-06-2008
Europe must not turn a blind eye to the deteriorating human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory	13-06-2008
Italy: Sami Essid expelled (In French)	13-06-2008
The current text does not guarantee the respect for fundamental rights	13-06-2008
The Egyptian authorities impede freedom of association: an organization prevented from participating in a UN meeting	16-06-2008
Note on the human rights situation in Israel end the OPT	12-06-2008
Appeal to respect the freedom of movement owed to the Al-Haq General Director	20-05-2008
Time to take Action for Gender Equality	14-05-2008
Four Syrian beheaded hundreds still under the threat of execution in Saudi Arabia	02-05-2008
An imperative duty to act	25-04-2008
Harassment against a human rights defender in Tunisia (In French)	14-04-2008
Progress in Human Rights Respect must be a Condition for Deepening EU's Relations with its Southern Neighbors	14-04-2008
Open letter to Mr Bouteflika	09-04-2008
Two Tunisians face expulsion to Tunisia despite risk of torture or other ill-treatment	09-04-2008
Stop the arbitrary investigation against the Greek Helsinki Monitor	26-03-2008
Stop Collective Punishment and Unlawful Killings	14-03-2008
Open letter on the occasion of March 8th 2008 International Women's Day	06-03-2008
The "Peace Award 2008" Laureate and another human rights activist violently assaulted by the Tunisian police	05-03-2008
Letter to the EU Commission: Contribution as regards Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region	20-02-2008

Two women activists violently assaulted by the Tunisian police	20-02-2008
Letter on the occasion of the Association Council EU/Lebanon	15-02-2008
Syria: new arrest and prosecutions against pro-reform activists	30-01-2008
Stop the collective punishment of civilians in Gaza	25-01-2008
Recommendations on human rights in view of the meeting of the Subcommittee on political matters between the EU and Egypt	16-01-2008
Greece: Human rights activists face attacks and court actions by neo-Nazis	14-01-2008
Crackdown on Syrian activists continue	10-01-2008
Egypt: Serious concerns over restrictions to the freedom of movement of judges Hisham Bastawissi and Ashraf El-Baroudi	07-02-2008
The Association Lambda Istanbul Shut Down Stop the Persecution Against Minorities' Rights	09-06-2008
Positive Step towards the Respect of Freedom of Association in Egypt but Concerns Remain	02-04-2008
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