



**Euro-Mediterranean
Human Rights Network
Annual Report 2013**

Foreword

The current report covers the first complete year of activities since the adoption in June 2012 of a new EMHRN strategy and work program by the General Assembly. These documents were adopted in a time of radical changes that took place in the region following the revolutionary moments and uprisings of early 2011 – and of continued social and economic crisis in Europe.

While 2012 was a year still filled with optimism, 2013 became a year where the region witnessed the horrors of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian war and 100.000s of IDPs or refugees escaping from the war to the neighbouring countries. In Egypt, the clashes between the Egyptian Army and Muslim Brotherhood left 1000s of deaths and divided the Egyptian society, while the Libyan state was continuously threatened with a break-down. Israel maintained the closure of Gaza and continued expansions of settlements in occupied Palestinian Territory. In Algeria the attack by Al Qaida related groups on In Amenas, shed further light on the closeness of the Algerian political and military system, and the security risks in the region, while in Morocco and Jordan the discussions went along as to whether the constitutional changes – and the follow-up to these – brought real changes to democracy and human rights respect. In Turkey the hopes for a peace agreement between the PKK and the government were left uncertain while political trials against trade unionist and human rights defenders went on including against EC member Osman Isci.

On a more positive note, Tunisian civil society showed its strength when it took responsibility, through the Quartet, for bringing the country out of its political stalemate following the political assassinations of Choukri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi.

Finally, the economic crisis in Europe continued having a huge impact on the social fabric of the societies, and on continued rise of xenophobia and national inward-looking policies.

The EMHRN was prepared for the 2013 changes in the region in the sense that it knew (as stated in the strategy document) that the changes produced by the revolutions would imply that the development would vary significantly from one country to another and that no uniform approach could be taken to the region. Also the EMHRN was aware of the need to strengthen inter-linkages between regional, transnational work, which is at the core of the EMHRN's mandate, and work on national and bi-lateral levels between the EU and its Southern Neighbours where the most influential political processes take place.

In 2013, the EMHRN managed through its regional working groups to respond to the attacks on human rights defenders and to the shrinking spaces for civil society through its work on freedom of association and assembly; it set violence against women and impunity in this regard on the regional agenda; it initiated work on trial monitoring as a solidarity instrument and as an action oriented way to deal with questions of legal reform and transitional justice; and it took initiatives against push backs of migrants and refugees across borders, the Mediterranean sea 'border', the Sinai border, the Moroccan-Algerian and Turkish-Greek border. The EMHRN maintained the

question of accountability high on civil society agendas on the Middle East conflict and the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Networking, advocacy, solidarity and capacity building are main methods of the EMHRN to support its members and partners. In 2013 the EMHRN became a key turning point for networking of Syrian, Tunisian, Algerian, Israeli and Palestinian human rights defenders while increasing its work on Egypt. It facilitated encounters between members, partners and decision makers at local, regional and international level, and its recommendations reached EU and EU member states' decision makers, confirming the role of the EMHRN as a trusted civil society partner. It confirmed that its work methods, member based and bottom-up approach, create solid and relevant platforms or contexts for supporting its members, human rights organisations and civil society organisations in times of rapid changes.

Michel Tubiana,
President of the EMHRN

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Examples of achievements in 2013

- **11 regional, thematic Working Group meetings**, gathering **218 participants** from North and South CSOs;
- **More than 60 networking & dialogue meetings**, gathering **more than 500 participants** from various backgrounds (activists, civil society representatives, experts, diplomats and EU/UN officials);
- **More than 30 conferences/seminars**, gathering **more than 2000 participants** from CSOs;
- **19 trainings**, enhancing the capacities of **579 representatives** from civil society organisations, on a variety of topics, such as trial monitoring, documentation of Human Rights violations, international and EU advocacy, EU policies, etc.
- **188 Press releases**, including **73 in English**, **63 in French**, and **52 in Arabic**.

> **Freedom of Association and Assembly:** We issued the most comprehensive report on the Gezi Park Protests, receiving significant media coverage in Turkey. Furthermore, we contributed to setting the issue of freedom of association in the South Mediterranean high on the agenda of EU institutions, for example in relation to Egypt. [See p.14](#)

> **Independence of the Judiciary and Transitional Justice:** In addition to creating networking opportunities, we built the capacity of our partners through trainings and roundtables on judicial independence and reform, transitional justice and fair trial standards. We have systematically monitored and documented institutional and legislative reform efforts which are relevant to these subjects in our region, particularly in Tunisia and Morocco. [See p.16](#)

> **Gender Equality and Women's Rights:** we played a leading role in engaging civil society actors with the EU institutions and Euro-Med governments in relation to the third Ministerial meeting on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society. In cooperation with our Algerian members, we succeeded in organizing the first constructive dialogue between otherwise opposed feminists and women trade unionists on the question of Women's Rights in Algeria. [See p.19](#)

> **Rights of Migrants and Refugees:** we facilitated unprecedented civil society encounters on the situation at the borders in the Sinai and between Algeria and Morocco. We also facilitated a broad public debate and civil society negotiations with government representatives on the EU-Tunisia Mobility partnership. [See p.22](#)

> **The Middle East Conflict, Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian law:** with our members, we became a leading reference point for advocacy in relation to Israel and Palestine at EU level. Following our advocacy efforts, international humanitarian law is now included in EU annual progress report on Israel. [See p.26](#)

> **Tunisia:** 60-70 associations, mostly newly established, supported by the EMHRN are now considered key players of the NGO community in Tunisia. [See p.31](#)

> **Algeria:** in April, the EU Delegation in Algeria held a consultation of civil society in view of this Subcommittee. For the first time, due to EMHRN actions, all EMHRN members and partners were invited and attended the meeting. [See p.35](#)

> **Syria:** our actions enhanced coordination between Syrian human rights groups and gave them direct access to UN and EU decision makers. [See p.38](#)

> **Advocacy:** we have enabled civil society to be more involved in the monitoring and shaping of EU's policies in the region. Many of our concerns were taken into account by the EU in its dialogues with third countries or its private diplomacy, and we received strong public support from the European Parliament. [See p.42](#)

> **Communication:** we have reinforced our internal capacities by establishing a communication department and starting the implementation of a new and comprehensive communication strategy. [See p.44](#)

> **Executive Committee:** the EMHRN Executive Committee adopted two new strategy papers, one on Communication and one on fundraising. [See p.50](#)

Our core values and mandate

The EMHRN is an independent network of human rights organisations and institutions adhering to international human rights standards, international humanitarian law and democratic principles. The EMHRN's work is based on and rooted in the regional and international human rights texts and conventions.

The EMHRN is a regional network and its geographical mandate covers the EU and the EU's Southern Mediterranean Neighbours plus Turkey ('the EuroMed region'). This is where the main bulk of its work lies, while the EMHRN also remains concerned with developments internationally or outside the region having an impact on human rights.

The EMHRN and its members are actors in the region and recognise the impact that regional civil society cooperation can have on the situation of human rights and democracy on the ground. In this spirit, the Network is concerned both with the policies implemented in the North, South and East of the Mediterranean Sea and with policies governing relations between the shores.

The EMHRN and its members, together and individually, are part of the social movements of the region and the countries involved. It promotes networking amongst its member organisations without substituting these. At their request and within its means, the Network provides them the assistance they may wish for.

The **mission** of the EMHRN is to promote and strengthen human rights and democratic reform within its regional mandate through civil society networking and cooperation. Rooted in civil society, the Network seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the EuroMed region, disseminate human rights values, advocate for these and increase capacities in this regard.

As such, the EMHRN's **vision** is to be a regional human rights forum that is a major source of knowledge and action on human rights and democratic reform in the EuroMed region.

Key values that guide and shape the Network are interrelated and include the following:

- the importance of recognising and promoting the fundamental universality, indivisibility, interdependency and interrelation of human rights, individual as well as collective rights;
- respect for democratic principles and the rule of law as outlined in various international conventions and humanitarian law;
- the importance of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights and the right for civil society to be an active partner in this agenda;
- the value and benefit of a plurality of approaches to human rights as well as of dialogue and the promotion of intercultural understanding;

- the right to popular participation and ownership in shaping human rights agendas throughout the region;
- the importance of rooting work in the social context in which human rights values are expressed;
- Gender equality and the importance of highlighting and actively promoting the rights of women and women's participation in public life is a key value of the EMHRN.

The Network's statutory **key objectives** include the following:

- To support and promote within the relevant States the universal principles of Human Rights as established by all the international instruments.
- To work in support for the development of democratic institutions and the promotion of the Rule of law, in particular freedom of association, equality between men and women, sustainable development and respect for economic and social rights.
- To fight against discrimination, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- To support existing non-governmental organisations, the creation of independent and autonomous non-governmental organisations; to strengthen the capacity of civil society and support, assist and co-ordinate the efforts of its members.
- To support and protect human rights defenders whose rights are violated.
- To promote human rights education and to act in favour of peace and the right of peoples to manage their own destinies.
- To promote dialogue and solidarity between peoples and cultures.

Our members

REGULAR MEMBERS

ALGERIA Group for the Families of Disappeared in Algeria • Algerian League for Human Rights • Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights • SNAPAP **AUSTRIA** Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights **CYPRUS** Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies • Rights and Freedom Association • Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism **DENMARK** Danish Institute for Human Rights • Dignity • KVINFO **EGYPT** Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies • New Women Foundation **FINLAND** Tampere Peace Research Institute **FRANCE** Tunisian Federation for a Two Banks Citizenship • Human Rights League • La Ligue de l'Enseignement • Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes **GREECE** Greek Committee for International Democratic Society • Greek Council for Refugees **IRELAND** 80:20 Acting and Educating for a Better World **ISRAEL** Adalah The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel • Arab Association for Human Rights • B'Tselem • Public Committee Against Torture in Israel **ITALY** ARCI • Italian Refugee Council **JORDAN** Amman Center for Human Rights Studies • Sisterhood is Global Institute • Mizan Law Group for Human Rights **LEBANON** Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon • Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association • René Moawad Foundation • Lebanese Center for Human Rights **LIBYA** Libyan League for Human Rights **MALTA** Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies **MOROCCO** Democratic Association of Moroccan Women • Moroccan Association of Human Rights • Espace Associatif • Moroccan Association of Human Rights **PALESTINE** Al Mezan Center for Human Rights • Al-Haq • Palestinian Center for Human Rights • Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling **SPAIN** ACSUR Las Segovias Association for Co-operation with the South • Federation of Associations for the Defence and the Promotion of Human Rights • Human Rights Institute of Catalonia • Solidarity for Development and Peace **SWEDEN** Kvinna till Kvinna **SYRIA** Committee for the Defense of Democracy Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria • Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies • Syrian Organisation for Human Rights • Damascus Center for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies **TUNISIA** Tunisian Association of the Democratic Women • Tunisian League of Human Rights • Committee for the Respect of Freedom and Human Rights in Tunisia **TURKEY** Human Rights Association • Helsinki Citizens' Assembly **UNITED KINGDOM** Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales • Human Rights Centre • Solicitors' International Human Rights Group •

REGIONAL MEMBERS

African and Middle East Refugee Assistance • Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies • Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité • Arab Institute for Human Rights • Centre for Media Freedom • Arabic Network for Human Rights Information • European Association for the Defense of Human Rights •

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Amnesty International • Article 19 International Center Against Censorship • Association for the Prevention of Torture • International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute • International Federation for Human Rights • Foundation for International Studies • Human Rights Watch • Norwegian Helsinki Committee • World Organisation Against Torture •

How we work

As a network, **dialogue and networking** is at the core of the EMHRN works. We believe that creating a space for people to meet and to share experiences and ideas will strengthen their capacities to act and interact within the context of the region to promote and protect human rights. Networking is also conducive to transfer of knowledge and experience, to the development of common stands, new partnerships and initiatives. The ability of the EMHRN to bring together human rights defenders from all strands of the Euro-Med region – the Maghreb, the Mashrek and Europe – is one of its key strengths and added value.

Over the years, the EMHRN has developed a solid track record in bringing human rights defenders together in **working groups**. The regional working groups address issues of key regional concerns with members and partners from a broader number of countries. These key issues have been identified by the membership at the last General Assembly as including: Freedom of Association, Assembly and Movement; Justice (and the independence of the judiciary and transitional justice); Gender equality and women's rights; Rights of Migrants and refugees; Conflicts, with a specific focus on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians.

Past experience has shown that Working Groups, at their best, enhance cultural understanding and cooperation between the North, East and South of the Mediterranean, develop the capacity to work with human rights through sharing of experiences and best practises, provide new contacts and partners, and strengthen the capacity of the participants to manoeuvre in a regional context, including in relation to inter-governmental bodies. They also enhance participants' sense of ownership of the EMHRN. They are sites for in-depth discussions of thematic and country issues as well as sites for planning actions, advocacy, missions and solidarity actions.

Throughout 2013, the EMHRN has strengthened the Working Groups. First of all, members active on the ground within the thematic fields of EMHRN activities were prioritised in the selection of membership of the Working Groups. Secondly, resource organisations active in the relevant fields have been invited to the meetings in order to ensure the highest degree of expertise on the issues in question. Thirdly, nearly all meetings of the Working Groups have consisted of half a day of training on a specific theme/issue deemed relevant to the work of the WG, in order to enhance the capacities of the members of the group on this issue. As examples one can mention, the MRA WG training on legal aid to refugees, the JWG on fair trial standards, and on transitional justice; the FOAA WG on the OSCE work on FOAA. Conducting activities such as advocacy, fact finding missions and solidarity actions have also been ways to enhance experience and knowledge of the participants of the Working Groups such as the one in relation the crack down on freedom of assembly in Turkey during the Gezi Park events.

However, **networking and dialogue** is not only happening within the Working Groups, but is mainstreamed throughout the EMHRN activities. For example, throughout 2013, the EMHRN regularly provided a space for the isolated Algerian human rights organisations to meet together. It also provided platforms for Syrian human rights defenders to strategize in relation to identifying common needs. In Tunisia, the EMHRN has become a main site and partner for coordination and

networking activities of Tunisian civil society organisations working in the field of human rights and democratisation.

As mentioned, the Working Groups are capacity building sites per se, however, a questionnaire forwarded to EMHRN members in 2010 revealed that the members felt that the EMHRN was particularly fit to deal with **trainings** on EU advocacy; international conventions and treaty bodies; gender mainstreaming; migration and refugee legislation and knowledge about the Euro-Mediterranean region. Throughout 2013, the EMHRN provided trainings on these issues for example training on the EU HR mechanisms to civil society organisations in Israel and OPT, as well as in Tunisia, and to the many participants in advocacy missions going to Brussels. Also, the EMHRN facilitated member-to-member trainings, i.e. member organisations from Palestine and Egypt provided training for Syrian human rights defenders on documenting human rights violations.

EMHRN also organised a sub-regional training on migrant and refugee legislation (including the mobility partnership and readmission agreements) for organisations from Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Egypt.

An overall objective of the EMHRN's **advocacy** work is to ensure that the EMHRN and its members' policies and recommendations are fed into policies and practises of the EU institutions, EU member states and South and East Mediterranean partners. In this way, the EMHRN through its regional and country work support members in their advocacy efforts at national and regional level. Throughout 2013, the EMHRN has followed – and commented – on the human rights dimension of the EU cooperation frameworks and policies, in particular the European Neighbourhood Policy. It has also worked on the bi-lateral relations between the EU and its South Mediterranean Neighbours, for example in relation the mobility partnership between EU and Tunisia, as well as in relation to EU-Egypt relations – and EU policies towards Israel and the OPT. Finally, in order to reinforce advocacy work, the EMHRN developed its activities within the UN human rights system where this could strengthen EMHRN members' work at national level or influencing EU and EU member states relations with their Mediterranean partners. In this regard, the EMHRN has facilitated advocacy work by Syrian human rights defenders in relation to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and in the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

Part of the EMHRN's strategy is to develop **gender mainstreaming** as a means to achieve gender equality. This means that the EMHRN systematically looks into whether there are specific gender issues to consider and integrate before conceptualizing and launching any action. For example, the FOAA Review has included specific gender sensitive indicators, and the EMHRN initiated a report on Palestinian women's rights in EU-Israel and EU-PA relations as its members noted significant gender gaps in EU advocacy work. EMHRN also seeks to ensure gender parity in its missions and meetings.

It should also be mentioned that the EMHRN is in the process of strengthening its **communication** activities in order to efficiently voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members to relevant media, decision makers, and civil society. As an outcome thereof, in 2013, the EMHRN received increasing media coverage, including the

EMHRN report on violence against women in Syria that was covered by major media outlets such as BBC, NBC, Le Monde, Deutsche Welle and RFI.

The EMHRN also seeks to build **partnerships** in order to contribute to supporting efficient networks, platforms or alliances of civil society groups in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This had meant seeking outreach to international non-governmental organisations, social forums, political and religious groups were relevant. In 2013 the EMHRN was for example actively present at the World Social Forum in Tunisia with a workshop on FOA, and it continued formal and informal consultation and cooperation with its associate members, the international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIDH, and the OMCT. It has also pursued its close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Support of Human Rights Defenders that was created by the EMHRN in 2004 and is hosted by the Network.

Finally, it should be mentioned that EMHRN is strengthening its **monitoring and evaluation** tools, to better assess the impact of its work and to learn from this experience. Throughout 2013 the EMHRN revisited its work methodologies to better reflect what we are doing, including mainstreaming external communication into all areas of work.

The EMHRN's daily work was supervised by its Executive Committee who actively takes part in and advises on EMHRN policies within their field of responsibility. Members of the EC are from the French League for Human Rights; the Collective of Families of Disappeared in Algeria; Andalous Institute for Tolerance and non-Violent Studies, Egypt; Dignity, Denmark; Tapri, Finland; EEDDA, Greece; Arci, Italy; Al Mezan, Palestine; Acsur, Spain; Collective 95 – Maghreb Equality; Tunisian League for Human Rights; and Human Rights Association, Turkey. The EMHRN regrets that EC member Osman Isci was unjustly administratively detained for 9 months until being released in April 2012. The EMHRN monitored his and his co-defendants trial and issued a monitoring report in this regard.

Thematic Interventions

Freedom of Association and Assembly

Developing regional expertise and combating violations of freedom of association and peaceful assembly in the Euro-Med region

> Working Group Members

- Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH) - Morocco
- Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies - Egypt
- Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH) - Algeria
- DIHR (Danish Institute for Human Rights) - Denmark
- World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) – International (Switzerland)
- IHD (Human Rights Association) Turkey
- FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) - France
- Association for Cooperation with the South - Las Segovias (ACSUR) Spain
- OSCE/ODIHR - Europe (resource organisation)
- Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH) – Tunisia
- Collective of Families of Missing People in Algeria (CFDA) - Algeria
- New Woman Foundation - Egypt
- French League of Human Rights (LDH), France
- ANHRI (Arabic Network for Human Rights Information) - Egypt
- Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG) - UK
- Tunisian Federation for a Two-Banks Citizenship (FTCR) – France
-

>The context

Freedom of association and assembly (FOAA) are prerequisites for democratic societies as they are vectors for the defence of all rights and freedoms and a basic means for citizens to participate in public affairs. In most Southern Mediterranean countries laws are far from complying with international standards and these rights are not upheld in practice. Rights that are associated with the right to freedom of association (freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of movement) are also under attack and citizens face a shrinking space for public action and participation.

Two years after the ‘Arab spring’ the general tendency is that of growing restrictions of public freedoms and in particular freedom of association and assembly. In

Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, legal measures and repressive practices seek to curtail civil society action and control the public spaces that were gained in the uprisings. Counteracting these negative trends of shrinking spaces for civil society requires a clear political commitment from the governments of the region and from its European institutional partners (EU and Member States), encouraged by strong external and internal pressure. Civil society is fundamental in supporting democratic trends, and in many countries only its relentless activism allows to resist authoritarian measures, with the support of international solidarity.

>Our goals

- **Develop capacity for sustained civil society monitoring, expertise and action** on FOAA capable of influencing policies and practices at regional and national levels;
- Strengthen **the regional working group** built up by the EMHRN aimed at monitoring the right to FOAA;
- **Support on-going work and campaigns** of members and partners, and to sustain advocacy and media work in this regard;
- Support and bring **international solidarity** to members and partners under attack.

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Develop the work of the regional working group on FOAA;
- Monitor the situation in the countries of the region, publish reviews and statements on legal reforms, evolutions in practices and civil society initiatives;
- Publish a regional study on Freedom of Assembly in the Euro-Med region;
- Advocate for the protection of FOAA by local authorities and try to influence cooperation policies in the context of the ENP;
- Support work and campaigns of our members, conduct solidarity and fact finding missions.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **2 Working Group meetings** in Istanbul (May) and Barcelona (November)
- ✓ **5 advocacy, solidarity and fact-finding missions** in Algeria (January), in Turkey (February and July), in France (March), and Egypt (December)
- ✓ **1 Regional Study on Freedom of Assembly in the Euromed Region** published (December) and **2 meetings**

with CSOs organised to discuss its findings in Tunisia (October) and Spain (November)

- ✓ Publication and diffusion of a **Report on the Gezi Park protest movement in Turkey**
- ✓ **Numerous statements and press releases** denouncing legal and practical restrictions of FOAA and supporting individual cases; drafting of advocacy letters regarding the same issues; contributions to critical inputs to ENP documents;
- ✓ **3 FoA News Bulletin** disseminated to civil society groups, governments, media, EU and UN bodies
- ✓ **Solidarity and advocacy campaigns** in support to persecuted EC member Osman İşçi and of Egyptian members
- ✓ **1 observation mission at Osman İşçi's trial** (April) and subsequent **report published**

>EMHRN in action

- **The Working Group on FOAA** met twice: in Istanbul (May), the WG validated the content and discussed advocacy strategies for the *Regional Study on Freedom of assembly – Part I: Legislative review*. Indicators were elaborated in order to assess FOA practices, in view of the upcoming second part of the regional study. In Barcelona (Nov), the WG discussed FOAA developments in the region and was trained on EU advocacy channels and strategies. The WG met with Spanish NGOs and exchanged on the situation of FOAA in Spain and the region, thus reinforcing networking and solidarity links.
- **Several missions** were carried out: in **Algeria** (12 Jan) a meeting gathered 40 representatives of independent trade-unions and associations, with the purpose of improving coordination, campaigning and documenting obstacles to registration and activities of CSOs. In **Turkey** (11-14 Feb), a delegation of 5 EC members visited Osman İşçi in jail and met with CSOs and local authorities in Ankara and Istanbul to advocate on his case and on the crackdown on HRDs. A delegation of 3 Egyptian HRDs was invited to **Paris** (4-5 March) to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MPs to raise concern about the degradation of FOAA in Egypt (also the lack of independence of the judiciary and the worrying situation of women's rights was addressed). A fact-finding mission (composed of FOAA WG members) visited **Istanbul and Ankara** (3-10 July) following the 'Gezi park' protest movement and its repression, giving way to a thorough [report](#) on the observed violations,

"Turkish authorities have committed grave human rights violations on a massive scale against the freedom of peaceful assembly in an attempt to crush the protests at Gezi park."

Statement of EMHRN upon publication of its Report on the Gezi protest movement

bearing recommendations as to the legal framework regulating the use of force and its implementation. A high-level mission (with EMHRN President and Executive Director) to **Egypt** (7-11 Dec) assessed the situation of our members and of HR in the country, 7 months after Morsi's removal by the military.

- Other networking and monitoring meetings were held during the World Social Forum in Tunis (March); with Danish NGOs to discuss the perspectives of FOAA in the MENA region and build a common advocacy strategy; and with European network SOLIDAR to deepen campaigning and advocacy coordination on FOAA issues.

- The First Part of the [Regional Study on Freedom of Assembly in the Euromed Region: a Legislative Review](#) was published (Dec). Around 300 people and institutions received a hard copy of the study, more than 1500 people received its electronic version, and in the 5 days following its

publication more than 3000 people visited the webpage. Meetings with CSOs were organised to present and discuss its findings in Tunisia with 20 CSOs and trade unions (4 Oct) and in Spain with 15 CSOs and the WG members (29 Nov). The Study was also distributed at a UN Seminar on the right to peaceful protest in Geneva and received a warm welcome by several Special Rapporteurs and NGOs representatives (2 Dec).

- **Solidarity actions and a campaign** were organised in support to persecuted EC member Osman İşçi with a dedicated webpage, a letters campaign relayed by EMHRN members, open and confidential letters sent to the EU delegation and MS ahead of M. İşçi's hearings. An observation mission was sent to Mr. İşçi's trial (10 April) to show international support, with great outcome as M. İşçi and co-detainees were released pending charges. An expert [report](#) evidencing the politically biased proceedings was published.
- **Statements and press releases** were published denouncing legal and practical restrictions of FOAA in the whole region and supporting individual cases. The main focus was on the harassment of Algerian activists and the implementation of the freedom-depriving NGO law, denouncing restrictive reforms in Egypt, the violent repression of protests and the serious attacks against activists and CSOs (raids, smear campaigns and

detention), and on the harassment of liberal and Kurdish activists in Turkey and the repression of protests.

- **Advocacy letters and briefings** were published ahead of important high level meetings and legislative reforms (the NGO law and the ‘protest law’ in Egypt; France-Turkey anti-terrorism agreement; Israeli NGO-related bill; EU and UN meetings with Algerian and Egyptian authorities and CSOs etc.). The EMHRN also prepared comments on the ENP progress reports concerning Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine, and on the EU-Algeria Action plan in relation to FOAA issues. The EMHRN also submitted regular information to relevant UN bodies on FOAA related issues, such as informal communications to the Special Rapporteurs on FOAA, Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Expression and extra-judicial executions.
- **3 FOA News Bulletin** were published in March, June and October. This News bulletin is a communication and awareness-raising tool, reporting on the situation in region through input from WG members, partners and international institutions. It allows for dissemination of information and analysis of FOAA related issues to a large public including CSOs, international organisations, and EU Member States institutions.

>Our assessment

- Activities implemented in 2013 effectively contributed to **developing and strengthening partnerships, networking and cooperation** between human rights NGOs, activists and wider civil society in the Euro-Med region in the field of freedom of association. The FOAA WG established itself as a recognised regional forum for human rights NGOs and has developed a pool of expertise on the right to FOAA. This expertise is increasingly acknowledged by non-governmental and governmental partners: several INGOs working on the Arab region and/or on issues of FOA have solicited EMHRN for expertise and coordination (for example SOLIDAR, Danish MENA Network, and International Human Rights Service). The EMHRN played an

increasing and leading role in coordinating NGOs on FOA in Algeria and Egypt, and was increasingly consulted by inter-governmental bodies, such as the OSCE, the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the SR on extra-judicial executions and Freedom of expression, and EU institutions.

- **Considerable work remains to be done to ensure real progress on the ground**, but the EMHRN believes that it has contributed to **increasingly set freedom of association, assembly and movement on the EU and UN agendas**. As an indication thereof one can mention the statements made by EU HRVP Ashton and the European Parliament following attacks on freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Egypt and on the regressive NGO law in Algeria; mentions of freedom of association and assembly in the ENP Progress Reports; inclusion of these issues in the discussion agenda for Association Councils; and direct mention of EMHRN work in Algeria by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in his mission report.
- Finally, **the EMHRN contributes to providing and disseminating detailed and updated information** on developments in the field of freedom of association and assembly in the region and in specific countries while allowing monitoring of progress and setbacks. This allows for raising awareness and increasing knowledge of a wide variety of actors, including generalist NGOs, government officials working on the region, and intergovernmental bodies. Promotion and sharing of documentation and publications in regional forums, press conferences, NGO events and advocacy meetings have allowed an increased outreach and mainstreaming of FOAA issues in the work of well-established generalist human rights organisations and development organisations who do not usually work on the issue.

FOCUS: Regional study on Freedom of Assembly in the Euro-Med – Part I: Legislative Review

For several years now, citizens have taken to the streets throughout the region to demonstrate peacefully against policies or governments which they deem unfair, forcing governments to hear their claims, sometimes even toppling seemingly everlasting dictatorships. Freedom of assembly is a pillar of any democratic society and an enabling right for the defense of other rights and freedoms. The first part of this Study assesses the legal protection of this right in 13 countries of the Euromed region to the benchmark of international standards. The report takes on a regional perspective in order to compare the various legislations and restrictions on freedom of assembly in the South, East and North of the Mediterranean. The second part of the study will focus on how the right to freedom of assembly is being exercised in practice, and will be published in 2014.

Independence of the Judiciary and Transitional Justice

Promoting judicial independence and reform, transitional justice and fair trial standards through regional cooperation

>Working Group Members

- Adala (Morocco)
- Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies (AITAS – Egypt)
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS – Egypt)
- Centre Libanais pour les droits de l’Homme (CLDH – Lebanon)
- Collectif des familles des disparu(e)s (CFDA – Algeria)
- Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies (DCHRS – Syria)
- Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)
- Dignity – Danish Institute Against Torture (Denmark)
- European Association for the Defense of Human Rights (AEDH - Regional)
- Human Rights Institute of Catalonia (IDHC – Spain)
- International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI – International)
- Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l’Homme (LADDH – Algeria)
- Ligue Tunisienne des droits de l’Homme (LTDH – Tunisia)
- Mizan Law Group for Human Rights (Jordan)
- Organisation marocaine des droits de l’Homme (OMDH – Morocco)
- Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT – International)
- Sawasiya (aka Syrian Organisation for Human Rights – Syria)
- Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG – International)
- Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC – UK)

>The context

A functioning court system in which justice is rendered impartially on the basis of the law is a crucial element of any democratic system, which aims to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual. The Southern-Mediterranean region is marked by a lack of effective separation of powers. Judicial systems lack independence from the executive, fair trial rights are routinely violated and civilians continue to be tried in front of improperly constituted military tribunals.

Two years after the ‘Arab Spring’, challenges remain as to how to address and redress legacies of past large-scale human rights abuses. While some countries have attempted to reform judicial systems and put in place transitional justice measures aimed at achieving criminal justice, truth-seeking, reparation programmes and/or institutional reform, democratic transitions from state repression and/or conflict remain a major challenge for achieving justice throughout the region.

>Our goals

- To support civil society work on reform initiatives and transitional justice processes by enhancing regional cooperation and exchange between human rights NGOs, lawyers and judges aimed at supporting national initiatives in this field.
- To establish a regional civil society forum and resource pool aimed at supporting local processes and initiatives towards reform through awareness raising, policy proposals and civil society cooperation.

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Monitor and document the situation of independence and reform of the judiciary, and of transitional justice.
- Promote regional exchange (of experience and expertise) and cooperation on justice related matters, in particular through the Justice Working Group.
- Support judicial reform and transitional justice initiatives at national levels.
- Monitor EU and member states programs on justice as well as EU- South Med cooperation in this field.
- Create a resource pool for trial monitoring when the issue of the independence of the judiciary is at stake and for solidarity work where lawyers and judges are under attack.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ 2 **Working Group meetings** organised in Tunis (May) and Casablanca (November).
- ✓ 2 **Training sessions** on trial monitoring and EU justice policies organised in Casablanca (November).
- ✓ 2 **missions** organised to Morocco in relation to the High Instance of National Dialogue on Judicial Reform and to Egypt in relation to the country’s judicial system.
- ✓ 3 **Roundtables** organised on “The Status Quo of Justice in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”, on “The Role of International Actors in the Promotion of Justice in the

Euro-Med Region” (Tunis, May) and on “Judicial independence and Transitional Justice in the Euro-Med Region” (Casablanca, November).

- ✓ 2 **Dialogue Meetings** with local civil society actors organised on “Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Justice in Tunisia” (Tunis, May) and on “Judicial Reform in Morocco” (Casablanca, November).
- ✓ Several **statements and briefing notes** on justice related issues submitted to EU and UN bodies.
- ✓ A Justice **Newsletter** template was created as a regular communication and dissemination tool on justice related developments throughout the region. The first ‘test’ newsletter was disseminated amongst EMHRN members and staff in December 2013.

>EMHRN in action

- The EMHRN **Working Group on Justice** (WG) was initiated in 2013 where it met twice in countries where legal reform processes are under way. In **Tunis** in May, members learned about each other’s work priorities and activities, and exchanged information and experience on justice related matters in the region. The meeting entailed expert presentations on trial monitoring, access to justice, and the concept of transitional justice as well as presentations on relevant EU and UN programmes on justice. The second meeting was held in **Casablanca** in November, focusing on judicial independence in transitional contexts and included expert presentations on various transitional justice processes in the Southern Mediterranean and examined the challenges, opportunities and current activities of WG members.
- The EMHRN organised a **training on trial monitoring** as a tool for promoting judicial reform and independence. The training addressed “Best Practices in Trial Monitoring (the Function and Role of a Trial Monitor)”, “The use of trial monitoring for promoting judicial independence in a transitional justice context”, and on trial monitoring in the specific context of Morocco’s ongoing judicial reform efforts. A **training session on the EU Justice Policies** also took place within the framework of its WG meeting in Casablanca.
- The EMHRN organised several **missions** in relation to judicial independence and reform. In April, in Morocco (cf. focus) and in June, with CSOs, lawyers and judges in Cairo, on how to promote judicial independence and reform in Egypt during the transition.
- Several **roundtables** were organised throughout the region. The first on “The Role of International Actors in the Promotion of Justice in the Euro-Med Region,” (Tunisia, May) discussed the opportunities and

“The EMHRN calls on the Moroccan authorities to comprehensively reform the judiciary and to bring it in line with international standards. ... “The Moroccan authorities must end the use of military courts to try civilians and limit the jurisdiction of military tribunals to military offences and personnel only”

Michel Tubiana, in statement: “Fully independent judiciary must be established in Morocco” (EMHRN, FIDH & ICJ)

challenges for promoting justice in the ENP and initiatives on judicial reform and transitional justice of the UN Development Programme. A second on “The Status Quo of Justice in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”, was organised in Tunis, with presentations on “Judicial Reform in Times of Transition” (by the International Commission of Jurists), on “The Role of Trial Monitoring in Promoting Judicial Reform” (by Solicitors International Human Rights Group) and on “Transitional Justice in the Context of the Arab Spring” (by the International Centre for Transitional Justice). A third roundtable took place in Casablanca in November, tackling “Judicial independence and Transitional Justice in the region”.

- We organised **two dialogue meetings with local civil society** at national level. On 31 May, the Justice WG met with Tunisian civil society actors to discuss judicial reform, transitional justice initiatives, and prospects for joint efforts to promote judicial reform and transitional justice in Tunisia and the region. The second dialogue meeting took place on 1 November in Casablanca, where the Justice WG met with Moroccan HROs working on justice. Participants exchanged on the ongoing judicial reform efforts, in particular with regards to the Charter for the Reform of the Judiciary, organic draft laws on the judiciary as well as the independence of the judiciary as an institution.
- The EMHRN regularly **engaged with the EU and the UN**, via face to face meetings and written interventions. In September, we met with UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of non-recurrence, Mr. Pablo De Greiff to discuss the mandate of the Rapporteur, the relevance of transitional justice in the Euro-Med Region and to reflect on the on-going formulation of an EU Policy on Transitional Justice.
- On 9 December, we submitted an open letter to the **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**, in view of its 10-day country visit to Morocco, highlighting the systematic use of arbitrary detention by Moroccan

authorities and the resulting human rights violations of detainees, urging the UN Working Group to pressure Morocco to end this practice.

- In view of the 15th **Annual EU-NGO Forum** on Human Rights, which took place on 5 – 6 December in Brussels, the EMHRN engaged with the European External Action Service to ensure that Mediterranean Countries are addressed in the EU's ongoing debate on promoting transitional justice through its foreign policy. EMHRN participated in this Forum, which brings together EU officials and human rights organisations from around the globe to discuss the EU's role in promoting accountability and fighting impunity.
- The EMHRN **co-signed two letters** (with REDRESS, FIDH, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch) encouraging the EU to adopt a consistent policy to combat impunity within its borders. The first was signed in October ahead of the 5th meeting of the EU Genocide Network and the second one was submitted ahead of the Council Meeting on 27 November.
- On 28 November, in view of the EU-Morocco Association Council, the EMHRN submitted an **open letter** urging the EU to promote judicial independence and reform, (as well as the rights of migrants and refugees) through its bilateral relations with Morocco.
- The EMHRN continued to mainstream justice issues throughout its EU advocacy work, providing for example, input on justice related objectives in relation to the **ENP progress reports** concerning Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia as well as contributions to the **EU-Tunisia Action Plan**.
- The EMHRN published its first internal **Newsletter** on Justice, which summarises recent developments in the Euro-Med. In the future, this Newsletter will be further developed to include updates on justice related work of EMHRN and its members, as well as relevant developments on the agenda of the EU and UN.

>Our assessment

- The Justice programme supports civil society work on reform initiatives and transitional justice processes by enhancing regional cooperation and exchange between human rights NGOs, lawyers and judges. In addition to creating networking opportunities, we are building the capacity of our partners through training sessions and roundtables on judicial independence and reform, transitional justice and fair trial standards. We have systematically monitored and documented institutional and legislative reform efforts which are relevant to these subjects. Through dialogue meetings with local CSOs in Tunisia and Morocco, we have fostered exchange and cooperation on justice and reform issues beyond our own membership.
- In consultation with our members, we are engaged in national and international advocacy efforts to raise awareness and influence policies on justice related matters. We are working to ensure that the promotion of justice is increasingly put on the EU and UN agendas and that the perspectives of local CS actors, including HROs and lawyers are taken into account. To this end, we monitor EU programmes aimed at promoting judicial independence, reform and transitional justice and we are engaged with EU actors to promote these objectives within the EU's Foreign Policy.
- The EMHRN succeeded in establishing a strong WG and it contributed to building the capacity of local lawyers and NGOs on trial monitoring and in assessing national justice systems and respect for international fair trial standards. In the coming years, we will increasingly focus on trial monitoring as a tool to advance judicial reform and independence.

FOCUS: Memorandum on the reform of the judiciary in Morocco

The EMHRN, FIDH and the International Commission of Jurists visited Morocco in April in view of the conclusions of the High Instance of National Dialogue on the Reform of the Judiciary. The delegation called on the Moroccan authorities to comprehensively reform the judiciary and to bring it in line with international standards, including through ending executive control over the Higher Judicial Council, reforming the statute of magistrates, ensuring the independence of prosecutors and removing the military court's jurisdiction over civilians. The delegation met with the Minister of Justice, the Presidents of the Deputies Assembly, the Justice and Legislation Commission of the Counsellors Assembly and of the National Council for Human Rights, respectively. The delegation also met with Parliamentarians and local CSOs. After a press conference in Casablanca, the three organisations published a legal memorandum in which they recommend reform measures which would align the Moroccan judiciary with international standards of judicial independence.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Promoting and protecting the rights of women with a focus on combating violence against women in the Euro-Med region

> Working Group Members

- ACSUR – Las Segovias (Spain)
- Adalah – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Israel)
- Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies (Egypt)
- Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD – Tunisia)
- Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM – Morocco)
- Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH – Morocco)
- Collectif 95 – Maghreb Egalité (regional)
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (Egypt)
- Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (France)
- Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex (UK)
- Kvinna Til Kvinna Foundation (KtK – Sweden)
- KVINFO (Denmark)
- Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (France)
- Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH – Algeria)
- Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (Malta)
- Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS – Cyprus)
- New Woman Foundation (Egypt)
- Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI – Jordan)
- Syrian Human Rights Network (Syria)
- Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC – Palestine)

>The context

The transitional period following the Arab uprisings is characterized by a tendency towards women's systematic marginalization and a complete absence of their priorities and concerns from the political agendas. In a climate of impunity, rape, sexual harassment and assault on women are used as weapons in conflicts as well as to marginalize and terrorize women to prevent them from participating in demonstrations and political life. Women in Europe suffer from increased unemployment, impoverishment, precariousness and

budget cuts in health and education caused by austerity measures decided by governments. The decrease of respect and protection for women's rights and gender equality, including the rise of violence against women is inextricably linked to the patriarchal traditions and gender inequalities that transcend Mediterranean countries as well as many European countries.

There is an evident cosmetic commitment from the majority of the governments of the Southern Mediterranean region to protect, promote and fulfil women's rights and to implement legal provisions and policies ensuring gender equality. While women were, and still are, pivotal during the uprisings that ousted dictators in various countries of the region, a pattern of marginalizing them is emerging from recent legislative and practical developments.

>Our goals

- To promote sustainable civil society networks and groups of actors in the region with capacity to influence civil society and decision makers to actively promote and protect the rights of women in the region as well as integrating gender mainstreaming into their work.
- To further strengthen regional cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks aimed at (1) supporting national work to promote and protect women's rights during the current political transitions and (2) actively supporting women's rights activists and organisations under attack.

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Continue the series of meetings leading to a regional conference on fighting impunity for violence against women gathering women's rights defenders including the most important EU, Euro-Med and Arab networks;
- Bring together the many initiatives focusing on obstacles, gaps and challenges to women's rights and gender equality and formulate recommendations and strategies for setting these initiatives into more concerted action;
- Monitor the situation of women's rights in the South and East Mediterranean region and support women's rights defenders work at national level;
- Monitor EU policies and advocate for the EU to uphold its commitments to promote women's rights and gender equality internally and externally;
- Continue awareness raising on the importance of gender mainstreaming as an approach to fight

discrimination based on sex and promote equal opportunities;

- o Continue the gender mainstreaming process of the EMHRN based on a Gender Audit of the EMHRN.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **2 Working Group meetings** organised at Dead Sea (April) and Amman (November)
- ✓ A **national meeting** organised in Algeria (January)
- ✓ A **regional NGO conference** on violence against women organised in Amman (November)
- ✓ **Euro-Med Civil Forum** co-organised with the EuroMed NGO Platform in Brussels (September)
- ✓ Attending preparatory meeting of EU senior officials in Malaga (June) and third UfM Ministerial meeting in Paris (September)
- ✓ **Statements and press releases** to raise awareness of the challenges to women's rights in the transitions and in relation to VAW and various articles published by local media; advocacy letters; gender input to ENP documents.
- ✓ **Awareness raising and promotion activities** in relation to the EMHRN Gender Media Guide;
- ✓ **Gender Mainstreaming** applied on EMHRN publications and appointment of Gender focal points in EMHRN WG.

>EMHRN in action

- The Working Group met on 2 occasions in 2013. At Dead Sea (25-27 April), the group worked on the various VAW activities planned in 2013. In Amman on 10 & 13 Nov, the group finalized the preparations for the conference on VAW, and agreed on its 2014 work plan.
- The EMHRN in collaboration with LADDH, SOS Disparu(e)s, SNAPAP, RADDH and ACDA organised the national meeting "Women's rights in Algeria: state of play and prospects" on 25-26 January in Algiers, the first in Algeria bringing representatives of feminist and trade union groups together. 57 representatives of Algerian CSOs discussed and agreed on recommendations and measures to promote women's rights and gender equality in Algeria, which the EMHRN will use in its future advocacy work towards the EU in the framework of its relations with Algeria.
- On 11-12 Nov, the Euro-Med Regional conference on "Violence against Women, crimes and impunity" was organised in Amman by EMHRN in cooperation with Mizan, SIGI and ACHRS. 94 participants representing CSOs from Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan as well as Turkey and Europe jointly analysed and strategized on how to work

together in order to combat VAW, improve women's access to protection and support, and to enhance responses to VAW in the Euro-Med. The conference adopted a statement with recommendations addressed to governmental bodies in the region, and to the EU and Union for the Mediterranean.

- The EMHRN, in cooperation with the ENGP and IFE-EFI, organised the Euro-Med Civil Forum "Gender quality: outcomes and prospects of the Istanbul-Marrakech Process" in Brussels on 3-4 September, attended by 77 organisations from the whole region. Joint civil society recommendations were adopted and presented to the representatives of the UfM ahead of the Third Ministerial Meeting on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society". The EMHRN participated on the preparatory meeting of senior officials in Malaga in June, and in the Ministerial Meeting, together with the ENGP, to present recommendations of the Euro-Med Civil Forum.
- The EMHRN issued various press releases and statements on the challenges to women's rights in the transitions and in relation to VAW. The EMHRN formulated comments on the ENP package and on the EU-Tunisia Action plan in relation to gender equality, women's rights issues and gender mainstreaming. The EMHRN Gender Media Guide was widely distributed to partners and donors.
- The drafting of the regional report on VAW in the Euro-Med region was conducted by three specialized researchers, assisted by an Advisory Committee of WG members was set up to assist in the drafting process. The preliminary findings of the report were presented and discussed at the regional conference. The report will be published in 2014.
- An advocacy report on Palestinian women's rights in EU-Israel and EU-PA relations was prepared, in consultation with key CSOs and other stakeholders dealing with Palestinian women issues in Israel, West Bank and Gaza. In addition, focus group meetings were organised in cooperation with PCHR, WCLAC, Adalah and KtK in Gaza (January), West Bank (January) and Israel (February), where key women's rights organisations met to formulate the key challenges and priorities in relation to Palestinian women to be addressed in the report. The report will be published in 2014.

>Our assessment

- The project strengthened regional coordination, networking and mobilization to promote and protect

women's rights and gender equality, while making best use of relevant European and Euro-Med policies. The EMHRN is actively working to strengthen regional cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks, as illustrated by the regional venues facilitated by the EMHRN, including the WG meetings, the Euro-Med Civil Forum and the Regional conference on VAW strengthened regional assessment. These venues were useful to monitor and exchange on realities on the ground and initiatives taken nationally to promote and protect gender equality and women's rights in a deteriorating context. Key regional and international organisations also took part in these regional events, including SALMA Network, AISHA Network, EFI, European Women's Lobby and Heinrich Boell Foundation.

- The EMHRN continued supporting the national work to promote women's rights, through raising related national concerns and lobbying for the implementation of recommendations drawn by the EMHRN national members. For instance, the EMHRN facilitated direct meetings for the national CSOs with EU officials and their governments' representatives (cf. Euro-Med civil forum for example). CSOs' recommendations were also included in the EMHRN comments to ENP action plans. National networking between different stakeholders was also facilitated, as illustrated by the national meeting held in Algiers. Additionally, national work was strengthened through awareness raising and training on regional and international mechanisms to combat VAW, such as the Istanbul Convention, the Rome Statute and EU guidelines to combat VAW. The conference allowed the participants to discuss directly with national decision makers, UN representatives and other governmental representatives.
- The EMHRN contributed to supporting women's rights activists and organisations under attack through the publication of statements informing about these attacks and the increased violations against women and women human rights defenders in the countries engaged in transitional democratic processes or armed conflicts. The VAW incidents in the Euro-Med region were regularly raised in meetings with EU officials and national authorities. They were addressed, although not sufficiently, in the ENP Progress Reports, where measures were suggested to eliminate these attacks and hold perpetrators accountable.
- The EMHRN continued the gender mainstreaming of its work by ensuring that gender issues are systematically raised in all relevant publications, and that gender responsive recommendations are drawn as much as

possible, including in ENP communications and progress reports. Gender focal points were appointed in each regional working group, contributing to the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in the EMHRN.

- Considerable work remains to be done in terms of setting-up systematic, regional civil society work on ending impunity for violence against women. Several national oriented follow-up activities are envisioned in this regard and a concept paper was developed outlining the interventions the EMHRN will undertake in this regard using the different methodologies of the network (Advocacy, Networking, Solidarity and Gender Mainstreaming), which will be elaborated further in 2014.

Rights of Migrants and Refugees

Promoting and protecting the rights of migrants and refugees in the Euro-Med region through regional approaches and a strong, dynamic civil society

> Working Group Members

- Tampere Peace Research Institute - Mediterranean Studies Project (TAPRI – Finland)
- Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism (KISA - Cyprus)
- African and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA – Regional)
- Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights (EFRR – Egypt)
- Association Marocaine pour les droits humains (AMDH – Morocco)
- Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI – Italy)
- Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des Deux Rives (FTCR - Tunisia)
- European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH - Egypt)
- Greek Council for Refugees (GCR – Greece)
- Human Rights Association (IHD – Turkey)
- Helsinki Citizens Assembly (hCa – Turkey)
- Italian Refugee Council (CIR - Italy)
- Ligue Algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'Homme (LADDH - Algeria)
- La Ligue de droits de l'Homme (LDH - France)
- Organisation Marocaine de droits de l'Homme (OMDH - Maroc)
- Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (PHRO - Lebanon)
- Greek Committee for International Democratic Society (GCIDS – Greece)
- Hotline for Refugees and Migrants (HRM – Israel)(resource organization)
- Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHR-I – Israel) (resource organization)
- Forum Tunisien des droits économiques et sociaux (FTDES – Tunisia)
- Ruwad Frontiers (Lebanon)
- Syndicat national autonome des personnels de l'administration publique (SNAPAP – Algeria)
- Tamkeen (Jordan)
-

>The context

As non-nationals of the countries in which they reside, migrants and refugees constitute a particularly vulnerable group. In Europe, the rights of migrants and refugees are increasingly undermined, in part due to the rise of right-wing and xenophobic political parties

and anti-foreigner sentiments, fuelled by the on-going economic crisis felt in several countries. In addition, the EU continues to adopt a security approach to migration issues, further externalizing migration control to border countries (i.e. Morocco and Tunisia). The increased difficulty for migrants and refugees to enter EU territory has pushed them to take increasingly dangerous routes, often with dramatic consequences, as was seen by the drowning of over 300 migrants at sea off the coast of Lampedusa in October 2013.

In southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, migrants and refugees continue to live in precarious conditions due to, among others, a lack of asylum legislation, criminalization of irregular migration, and arbitrary detention policies. Political instability in countries such as Libya and Egypt has made it even more difficult for civil society to work on the issue, due to a lack of government interlocutors, or the lack of political will, interest or capacity to effectively tackle migration issues. The presence of over 2 million Syrian refugees in the region (the majority being in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt) has had a strong destabilizing effect, with countries struggling to cope with the mass influxes and European countries only willing to resettle a tiny fraction of these refugees. In this context, a strong civil society effort is necessary to promote the full respect of the rights of migrants throughout the region.

>Our goals

- **Further develop and strengthen civil society collaboration, expertise and action** to promote the rights of migrants and refugees, with a focus on EU policies and their impact on the South Med region ;
- **Support the development of a regional civil society response** to EU policies in the region, in particular the Mobility Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia ;
- **Monitor the development of migration and asylum legislation as well as migration agreements and advocate** for transparency and commitment to human rights and International Law
- **Support local civil society** in their efforts to strengthen legislation pertaining to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the region
- **Monitor Frontex activities** at the South and East Mediterranean borders of the EU

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Continue to develop the work of our regional Migration and Asylum Working Group;
- Monitor the situation in the region, publish statements and briefs about legal reforms, evolutions in practice and civil society initiatives;
- Carry out a mission to Algeria and highlight the vulnerability of migrants and refugees at the Algerian-Moroccan border through the publication of a report;
- Organize a roundtable and follow-up mission in Brussels on human trafficking in the Sinai and the situation in Egypt and Israel;
- Advocate for the respect of migrant and refugee rights by the EU and national governments with the aim of influencing EU cooperation & migration policies;
- Support work and campaigns of our members in the field of migration and asylum.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **Two Working Group meetings** organised in Oxford (May) and Amman (November)
- ✓ **Two roundtables** - in Brussels on human trafficking in the Sinai and the conditions of victims of trafficking (June), in Rabat on the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership in the broader framework of Morocco's migration reforms (December)
- ✓ **Three missions** – in Brussels (June) as a follow up to the roundtable, related to tackling human trafficking in the Sinai and the situation of victims in Egypt and Israel, in Algeria (Maghnia) on the situation of migrants and refugees at the border with Morocco (June) and to Greece and Turkey to investigate Frontex involvement in violations taking place at the border (October).
- ✓ Publication and launch of a **report on the vulnerability of migrants and refugees in Maghnia**, at the Algerian-Moroccan border.
- ✓ Publication and dissemination of a **policy brief on the EU-Turkey readmission agreement** and implications for migrants and refugees.
- ✓ **Numerous statements and press releases** denouncing policies both at the EU and national level which undermine the rights of migrants and refugees; drafting of advocacy letters regarding the same issues; contributions to critical inputs to ENP documents.
- ✓ Four **Migrasyl Newsletters** disseminated in English and French to civil society groups, governments, media and international bodies (April, July, October, December)
- ✓ Regular update of the **Migrasyl blog**.
- ✓ **Involvement in the Frontexit campaign** monitoring Frontex operations and human rights violations.
- ✓ **Participation** in various events with the aims of networking and enhancing collaboration.

>EMHRN in action

- The **Migration and Asylum Working Group** met twice in 2013: in **Oxford** (15-17 May), the group met researchers and local organisations working with refugees and migrants to discuss challenges to promoting migrant and refugee rights in the UK and Europe more broadly, discussed and agreed upon activities to be carried out in the next 6 months, and undertook a one-day workshop on legal aid, facilitated by a member of the WG. During the **second meeting in Amman** on 1-3 November, the group met with international and local organisations to discuss challenges with regards to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and the region more broadly, agreed upon final activities to be implemented in 2013 as well as the focus and priorities for 2014.
- **Two roundtables** were carried out in 2013. The first took place in **Brussels** (15-16 June) on **human trafficking of migrants and refugees in the Sinai**, bringing together a small number of organisations working on the issue to exchange most recent information as well as potential advocacy and service-oriented strategies. The second took place in **Rabat** (13 December) and brought together Moroccan and migrant civil society organisations, as well as representatives from the European Union, the United High Commissioner for Refugees and the Moroccan National Human Rights Council to discuss the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership in the broader context of Morocco's announced migration reforms. The public roundtable was followed by a closed discussion for civil society actors to discuss potential advocacy and follow-up.
- **Three missions** were carried out with EMHRN members and partners: in **Brussels** (17-18 June) to meet with various EU representatives to discuss the issue of human trafficking in the Sinai and potential EU responses. In particular, meetings were organised with the European Commissioner for Home Affairs (Cecilia

“While Turkey has made a very positive step in adopting a new law on Foreigners and International Protection which will, in many ways, be in line with international standards, it will take several years for its full implementation. Until then, migrants and refugees will still be at risk of arbitrary detention or deportation”

Statement of the EMHRN on International Refugee Day

Malmström), representatives of DG External Action Service and Home Affairs, as well as a European Parliamentarian. A mission to **Maghnia** (17-24 June) was organised as a follow-up to a mission organised by the EMHRN in November 2012, investigating the situation of migrants and refugees on the Algerian side of the Moroccan-Algerian border. Delegates met with various communities of migrants and refugees and recorded the various abuses faced by these populations at the border. A mission to the **Greece and Turkey** (29 September – 13 October) was co-organised with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Migreurop, in the framework of the Frontexit campaign, to investigate the situation of migrants in both countries, violations of human rights at the borders and the implications of Frontex in these violations.

- Following the mission to Algeria, **a report was published and launched on 18 December** (International Migrants Day) entitled, “[Maghnia - Crossing the Uncrossable Border](#)” on the vulnerability of migrants and refugees in the border region. Prior to the official launch, a press conference and event were organised in Paris on 16 December, bringing together civil society organisations working on migration and Algeria, to present report findings and provide an analysis of the situation with regards to EU policies, access to health, and engaging with the media on the issue. The report was distributed widely to EU, UN, governmental and civil society representatives.
- With **the aim of monitoring and informing the public and carrying out advocacy**, numerous statements, letters and briefs were published denouncing policies both at the EU and national level which undermine the rights of migrants and refugees. The main focus of the statements and open letters have been EU policies (Mobility Partnership agreement with Tunisia, migration tools such as Frontex and Seahorse Mediterraneo, the EU response to deaths at sea). In

addition, a policy brief on the EU-Turkey readmission agreement was published on (20 June – International Refugee Day) as well as an in-depth analysis of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership (presented at the round table in Rabat). The EMHRN also gave comments on the ENP progress reports concerning Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Israel, Jordan and on the EU-Algeria action plan, and has prepared submissions ahead of EU-Algeria and EU-Morocco subcommittee meetings.

- Four **Migrasyl Newsletters** were disseminated in English and French to civil society groups, governments, media and international bodies (April, July, October, and December). The Migrasyl newsletter highlights recent EMHRN and civil society initiatives as well as monitors and presents the situation in the different countries of the region by linking back to the regularly updated Migrasyl blog.
- **The EMHRN participated in various events** with the aims of networking and enhancing collaboration; the EMHRN is a steering committee member of the Frontexit campaign, which aims to gather information regarding Frontex operations and its role in human rights violations at EU borders, and participated in the steering committee meeting in Rabat (28 June) during which a meeting was also organised with Moroccan organisations to launch an important campaign against violence at Moroccan borders; the EMHRN also participated in a regional North Africa and Middle East workshop organised by the International Detention Coalition in Amman (18-19 June).

>Our assessment

- The programme has come closer to its objective of **further developing and strengthening civil society collaboration, expertise and action** to promote and protect the rights of migrants and refugees in the euro-Mediterranean region. The Migration and Asylum Working Group brings together experts on migration

FOCUS: Maghnia – Crossing the uncrossable border

In November 2012 and June 2013, the EMHRN commissioned two missions to Maghnia, an Algerian city bordering Morocco, to investigate the conditions of its Sub-Saharan migrant and refugee population. The border crossing between Maghnia and Oujda, its counterpart on the Moroccan side, is one of the main migratory crossroads in North Africa. While thousands of Sub-Saharan migrants have passed through it in the past decade, the securitization and externalisation of European migration policies has resulted in a growing number finding themselves “stranded” between the two borders. This externalization – which may soon include a readmission agreement between the EU and Morocco – is not only effectively barring access to protection for those who would be entitled to it, but also enhancing the vulnerability of migrants and refugees and encouraging practices and policies which undermine their rights. At the occasion of International Migrants Day, the EMHRN published its mission report, highlighting the inhumane conditions faced by its migrant and refugee population.

and asylum issues, with members spanning countries throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region. Through participating in the Working Group and the emphasis on a regional approach, members have developed a regional understanding of migration issues, allowing for more effective advocacy at national and regional levels. The EMHRN and its WG members are regularly solicited by partners (NGOs, EU representatives and international organisations) for their expertise regarding legislative and political developments in the field. The EMHRN has also increasingly collaborated with other major migration-related networks and strengthened collaboration between these actors and its members on the ground.

- In 2013, the EMHRN has been at the forefront with regards to monitoring the Mobility Partnership Agreements negotiated between the EU and Morocco and Tunisia. By remaining solidly anchored in local civil society, it has contributed to building **a strong civil society response** to these agreements, contributing to its broader aim of **supporting a South Mediterranean civil society response** to EU policies. Its analysis of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership – developed with the support of Moroccan organisations on the ground - is the only one of its kind providing an in-depth overview of the partnership and its various components and implications. In Tunisia, the EMHRN has played a central role in supporting the development of a unified civil society response to the mobility partnership negotiations, as evidenced in the form of highly mediated statements as well as on-the-ground mobilisations and regular consultations with authorities on the issue leading to the postponement of the signing of the agreement. Despite concerns raised by the EMHRN and partners, the Mobility Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia have been signed. **An important challenge and priority will now be** to effectively monitor their implementation and advocate for their full respect of human rights.
- Through the regular updating of its blog, quarterly newsletters and mediated statements, as well as its policy brief on the EU-Turkey readmission agreement, the EMHRN has continued to **monitor the development of legislations as well as migration agreements and policies and advocate for transparency and a commitment to human rights and international law**. The EU has been reluctant to highlight its concerns with regards to the human rights of migrants and refugees in certain neighbouring countries, such as Israel and Egypt. Through regular meetings and communication with EU representatives, the EMHRN has contributed – along with other civil society actors – to **putting migration issues on the EU’s political agenda with these countries**. This can be seen by an increased number of political statements on the issue, as well as strong migration-related recommendations being included in the European Commission’s ENP Progress Report. However, with countries such as Morocco and Libya, with whom the European Union is eager to conclude migration agreements, a strong position by the EU on the obligations of these countries to guarantee the human rights of migrants and refugees continues to be lacking and constitutes a major challenge for the EMHRN and partners.
- As a steering committee member of the Frontexit campaign, the EMHRN has **collaborated with partners in monitoring Frontex activities** at the South and East Mediterranean borders of the EU, and in particular at the Greece-Turkey border through a two-week mission on both sides of the border. It has been vocal in the need to guarantee human lives and the respect for international law over border control on several occasions, in particular following the tragic drowning of over 300 migrants off the coast of Lampedusa in October 2013.
- The EMHRN has continued in 2013 to provide support to organisations in the form of fact-finding missions, with the aim of strengthening asylum legislation and the respect for migrant and refugee rights in the region. **Its mission report on the situation on the Algerian-Moroccan border** constitutes the first civil society report which specifically investigates the situation on the Algerian side of the border. Fact-finding missions are key in order to develop in-depth understanding of the situation on the ground and for organisations to be better equipped to devise both service-oriented and advocacy strategies to respond to the needs of migrant populations.
- **Despite the raised awareness and interest in migration issues**, there are significant challenges ahead. The EMHRN will, in collaboration with partner organisations, continue to closely monitor EU migration agreements; in order to effectively do so, it will also engage in targeted capacity building for organisations working in relevant third countries, such as Tunisia and Morocco. The EMHRN will also be advocating for a stronger commitment by EU member states to resettling and guaranteeing access to EU territory for Syrian refugees, without neglecting the hundreds of thousands of other refugees in the region who are in need of protection.

The Middle East Conflict, Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian law

Placing respect for international law at the forefront of the European Union's policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

>Working Group Members

- The Arab Association for Human Rights- Israel – Nazareth
- Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos- Spain
- Asociación para la Cooperación con el Sur- Spain
- Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity- Greece
- The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel- Israel – Jerusalem
- B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories- Israel – Jerusalem
- Dignity, Denmark
- Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights, Austria
- Al-Haq, OPT
- Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon, Lebanon
- Adalah, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel- Israel
- Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)- OPT
- Al Mezan center for Human Rights- OPT
- Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG)- UK
- Human Rights League (LDH)- France
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)- Regional
- ARCI- Italy

>The context

2013 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the interim Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accords and saw the resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. As the EU and the international community's attention was focused on keeping the peace process alive grave violations of international law have continued on the ground.

The EMHRN's main challenge has been to refocus the attention of the EU and its Member States on the ongoing violations and the culture of impunity in which these take place. We have strived to ensure that the EU and its Member States fully utilize the mechanisms at their disposal – both in their bilateral relations with Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) and at UN level – to place respect for international law at the forefront

of the Middle East Peace Process. The EU and its Member States have a key role to play in ensuring respect for international law, not least because of their own commitments under international law and the international legal principle of “Third State Responsibility”. We have continued to highlight the EU and its Member States' commitments and legal obligations with a view to grounding the peace process on respect for international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law. This, we believe, is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable peace in the Middle East and ensuring the viability of a Two-State solution.

>Our goals

- **To become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine** capable of influencing civil society, EU decision-makers and Member States on the importance of putting respect for international law at the forefront of the Middle East Peace Process.
- **To increase capacity, foster partnerships and coordinate among European, Israeli and Palestinian CSOs** in their advocacy work aimed at promoting respect for international law in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **To monitor and report on the EU and its Member States' obligations, commitments and actions under international human rights and humanitarian law** as implemented in their relations with Israel and the Palestinians.

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Increase the EU's support for promoting accountability for violations of international law committed in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Increase the capacity of European, Israeli and Palestinian CSOs to conduct advocacy on the issue of accountability at both national and EU-level.
- Conduct research based advocacy missions targeting the EU institutions and EU member states.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **17 advocacy missions/meetings** including a mission to the Netherlands, Poland, Israel/OPT and Italy as well as various meetings in Brussels.

- ✓ **10 public statements/press releases** published by the project, as well as **3 private letters**, **2 briefings** and **1 e-mail alert** for EU officials.
 - ✓ **2 Working Group meetings** organised in Poland (April) and Rome (November).
 - ✓ **4 trainings workshops** for civil society organisations including an annual EU advocacy workshop organised in Rome (November), 2 training workshops in Israel-OPT (May) and 1 training workshop in Poland (April).
 - ✓ **1 roundtable conference on accountability** organised in Brussels in June.
 - ✓ **2 public events** organised in the Netherlands (January) and Poland (April).
 - ✓ **2 advocacy reports** including a thematic report on the EU and accountability and country report on German-Israeli relations.
- The annual **EU advocacy workshop with European CSOs** was organised in Rome on 12-13 November. This workshop focused on the role of the EU in promoting accountability and fighting impunity in the IOPT conflict. The event gathered 45 participants from over 40 organisations, including 21 European organisations, 11 organisations from Israel-Palestine and 8 International NGOs. It aimed at strengthening cooperation amongst European, Israeli, Palestinian and International human rights and development NGOs and at enhancing their understanding of the EU mechanisms at their disposal. This event facilitated an exchange of experiences and best practices of advocacy at EU and Member State level and allowed for the development of advocacy strategies and potential areas of cooperation.
 - Several **advocacy missions to EU member states** were organised in 2013, including meetings with the respective ministries of foreign affairs, parliamentarians, media and civil society organisations. In **the Netherlands** (28-30 January) members met with the foreign minister Frans Timmermans, attended a hearing at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament and held a public civil society event. In **Poland** (15-17 April), members met with the Undersecretary of State, Jerzy Pomianowski, the Vice Marshall of the parliament, Wanda Nowicka and organised a public civil society event as well as a training session on EU advocacy for local CSOs. In **Rome** (11 November) members participated in an open parliamentary hearing (see web stream [here](#)) and provided interviews for [Radio RAJ](#) and "Il [Manifesto](#)".
 - A **mission to Israel and the OPT** was organised on 17-23 May, including meetings with EU and Member State delegations in Tel Aviv, East Jerusalem and Ramallah. In addition, the EMHRN, in cooperation with Al Haq and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, organised a civil society workshop on EU advocacy in Tel Aviv with 9 local organisations, and Ramallah with 19 local organisations.
 - Various **advocacy missions in Brussels** were also organised throughout the year, including missions ahead of EU-Israel and EU-PA policy dialogue meetings, on the Palestinian Arab Minority in the context of which a public hearing was organised at the European Parliament (20 June), an advocacy mission aimed at putting Gaza back on the EU agenda (22-27 September), and an advocacy mission in the context of the EU NGO Forum on Human Rights (3-6 December). The EMHRN has also ensured regular coordination between Brussels-based NGOs through the regular convening of the informal taskforce on fostering the implementation of the EU's IHL guidelines.

>EMHRN in action

- The **PIP Working Group** met twice, providing a unique forum for the 17 Israeli, Palestinian and European members to exchange information, identify EU advocacy opportunities and agree on joint objectives and initiatives. In Warsaw (18-19 April) the group discussed ongoing developments, focusing on the issues of forced displacement and detainees, and established the aim and parameters of a joint EMHRN-Amnesty International - European Institutions Office (EIO) project on accountability. In Rome (14-15 November) the group discussed an advocacy strategy paper on Germany-Israel relations, prepared in view of a mission to Germany, and considered follow-up activities to the accountability project. On both occasions the group took advantage of its presence to engage with local civil society organisations in view of strengthening partnerships in these EU Member States.
- A **civil society roundtable meeting on the pursuit of accountability in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict** was held in Brussels (27-28 June). This event formed part of a joint EMHRN-Amnesty International EIO project on accountability and gathered CSOs and experts from the field to discuss means of overcoming the deadlock in advocacy work on accountability in the IOPT conflict. More than 40 participants of Israeli, Palestinian, international and Brussels-based CSOs participated in this roundtable, including participants with an expertise on human rights, international humanitarian law (IHL), transitional justice and peace-building. The roundtable allowed participants to identify obstacles encountered during their EU advocacy experience, share best practices and consider opportunities to overcome the identified impediments.

- As part of its monitoring and awareness raising activities the EMHRN has continued to publish its weekly “**IOPT EU NEWS**” newsletter providing updates on ongoing developments, upcoming EU meetings and advocacy opportunities relevant to Israel/Palestine. This newsletter aims at supporting NGOs in their advocacy efforts in Europe.
- Several **statements, press releases and other publications** were published urging the EU and its Member States to mainstream international humanitarian and human rights law in their external relations with Israel and the PA. The EMHRN also commissioned 2 non-public reports: A thematic advocacy strategy on accountability commissioned in cooperation with Amnesty International EIO aimed at formulating a strategy for overcoming the deadlock in EU advocacy work on accountability in the IOPT conflict; and a country advocacy strategy on Germany-Israel relations which aimed at developing an effective advocacy strategy to ensure an international law based approach in German policy towards the IOPT conflict.

>Our assessment

- Our objective to further develop the activities of the PIP WG to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine was met in 2013. We ensured a continued cooperation and the coordination of work amongst our 17 members through the organisation of regular Working Group meetings and joint advocacy missions, and the publication of joint statements and press releases.
- Two reports, gathering the input of our members and partners, were shared with key organisations working on the IOPT conflict and resulted in strengthened coordination and cooperation with our partners. The findings and recommendations were integrated into the WG activities and will feed future advocacy strategies of the WG, its members and its partners.
- We have continued to strengthen the capacity of European, Israeli and Palestinian CSOs to conduct coordinated EU advocacy on the IOPT conflict, through the organisation of the accountability roundtable in June, the EU Advocacy Workshop in November and the training workshops in Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Warsaw. The high attendance at these events exemplifies the credibility given to the EMHRN as a key actor on the EU advocacy scene. These activities enhanced participants’ understanding of EU mechanisms and allowed for information sharing, the sharing of best practices and the identification of advocacy opportunities. The accountability roundtable and the EU advocacy workshop provided a forum for cooperation between European, Israeli, Palestinian and International human rights and development NGOs. The EMHRN will seek to build upon this cooperation through the coordination of joint advocacy work in 2014.
- We have also ensured increased coordination between Brussels based NGOs through the organisation of regular coordination meetings, including the informal taskforce on fostering the implementation of the EU’s IHL guidelines. This informal coalition met on five different occasions and its work has led to a growing awareness of the EU’s shortcoming regarding the inclusion of IHL language in EU policy documents.
- Several of our policy recommendations were integrated in EU documents relating to Israel & OPT, including the adoption of stronger IHL language in the annual Human Rights report of the European Parliament; the decision to include an IHL analysis in the EU Human Rights Country Strategies; the adoption of the EU guidelines on the funding of Israeli entities and their effective implementation in the Horizon 2020 MoU ; the March 2013 European Parliament Resolution on Palestinian Prisoners and its recommendation to send a mission to investigate the situation of Palestinian prisoners; the decision of the Netherlands to adopt labelling guidelines following the EMHRN mission in January.
- The EMHRN has established itself as a core source of information for the EU ahead of diplomatic meetings and is seen as a focal point for expertise on EU-Israel/PA relations. The EU News drafted by the EMHRN was widely disseminated to help NGOs follow EU policies and identify opportunities for advocacy.
- The promotion of accountability will continue to be a priority for EMHRN in 2014 although, particularly in the context of the peace process, this is unlikely to bear fruit in the short run. EMHRN will continue to conduct research-based advocacy missions targeting EU member states identified as priority countries. In light of Crisis Action’s decision to end its work coordinating advocacy work in Europe on Israel/OPT, the EMHRN, in cooperation with other regional NGOs in Brussels will need to ensure continued coordination between Brussels and capital advocacy in 2014.
- The EMHRN Working Group was successful in strengthening its role and importance as the only consistent Palestinian-Israeli human rights alliance in 2013 and will seek to cement this role in 2014.

Economic and Social Rights

Developing a road map for EMHRN work on Economic and Social Rights

>The context

- Being complex and unequal, economic relations between Europe and its Southern Neighbourhood play a significant role in the life of the citizens. These relations develop in a context of increased market liberalization that was spearheaded by the Barcelona Process and a new generation of bi-lateral agreements and Action Plans between the EU and its South Med Partners, later by the ENP.
- Regional impact assessments on the potential effect of the free trade area conclude inter alia that if proper domestic political reforms and investment decisions are not taken the South Mediterranean countries will face rises in unemployment; falls in wage rates; and significant losses in government revenues having social impacts, hence mirroring the developments in the South European countries following the financial crisis.
- The framework for economic relations in the Euro-Med region, that meets the support of international institutions such as the IMF, does not only pose challenges in terms of continued economic inequalities between the EU and the South Mediterranean. It is also a question of citizens' rights to gain democratic control over the economic and social policies of their countries including government policies and agreements with EU institutions, the EU Commission and EIB/ FEMIP and international financial institutions.

>Our goals

- set-up of a civil society instrument and mechanism to monitor the impact of the economic relations between the EU and the South and East Mediterranean countries on human rights in the EuroMed region.
- In 2013, our work objective was to initiate a process of mapping and analysing economic relations between the EU and the South and East Mediterranean and how these findings can be translated into human right work by NGOs in the North and South of the region.

>EMHRN in action

- At the EC meeting in Beirut on 22-24 November the importance of dealing with ESR in EU and South Mediterranean relations was re-acknowledged. The EC also agreed that HROs have little experience in translating knowledge and analysis of broader economic relations into daily human rights work. Also

cooperation and solidarity links between CSOs in Europe and the South and East Mediterranean deserve further strengthening in this field.

- However, the issue of economic policies and economic and social rights are complex, the thematic scope is broad and there is an inherent risk of dispersal of initiatives. A number of actions are already undertaken by trade unions, associations, international networks, development NGOs, research groups, etc., that directly or indirectly address questions relating to economic and social rights in EuroMed relations.
- Therefore the EC decided to initiate, and fundraise, for a mapping process in 2014 of 1) existing analysis bearing on the question of 'EuroMed economic relations' and their impact on human rights, 2) ongoing civil society initiatives that focus on economic and social rights issues in the EuroMed relations, 3) the current level of knowledge, expertise and analytical capacity of NGOs to translate broader economic relations into daily human rights work, 4) human rights organisations who could benefit from taking part in a regional working group and organisations who would be key in this regard.
- Based on the mapping exercise the EMHRN would then organise a regional 'scoping' seminar aimed at shedding light on 1) Economic and financial relations between the EU and its Southern neighbourhood and their impact on human rights at local level, 2) How an understanding of these relations – and initiatives targeting these - can facilitate the work of HROs at the local/ national and regional level, 4) Identifying the EMHRN's added value in setting-up regional work on this issue and defining the framework for a three years plan of action of a working group.

>Our assessment

- The EMHRN is currently fund raising for this start-up phase that would lead to a regional WG on economic and social rights. It may yet take some time until the goal is reached, but it is crucial to tread with care in a field where human rights work is in its making. The issue of translating analysis of regional economic flows into concrete and local human rights work is challenging, but, if may also prove to be an innovate activity that can break ground for new civil society cooperation in the region as well as for new work of human rights organisations.

Country Interventions

Tunisia

Promoting a vibrant civil society in all regions of Tunisia capable of influencing national human rights agendas and act on the international level

>The context

- Since the revolution of 14 January 2011, Tunisia has been experiencing the birth of a new civil society with the establishment of hundreds of associations covering the entire territory and working on various themes relating to human rights and democracy. The Tunisian civil society has continued to show its commitment and capability to play a major role in the promotion and protection of human rights and the achievement of the Revolution objectives. However, there is a significant need for capacity building, in particular on networking, for newly established organisations and those based in disadvantaged areas. Furthermore, given the many challenges facing Tunisian civil society, associations were mobilized on all fronts with a risk of dispersing efforts on the ground which may affect the effectiveness and relevance of their activities.

>Our goals

- Promote a vibrant civil society in all regions of Tunisia capable of influencing national human rights agendas and act on the international level;
- Facilitate capacity building of Tunisian human rights organisations and networking among these;
- Monitor the human rights situation in the country;
- Establish working links between these and regional and international organisations.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ Around **15 field visits** carried out in several areas of Tunisia to assess needs and local dynamics and to identify grassroots associations and initiatives;
- ✓ More than **20 conferences** on the main issues relating to the democratic transition in Tunisia, focusing mainly on civic and political rights;
- ✓ **7 public events** aiming at the use of arts and culture in the promotion of Human rights;
- ✓ **12 workshops** to help the Tunisian civil society in developing a common understanding of the situation in the country and engage common initiatives and actions;
- ✓ **7 training sessions** covering different themes and aiming at building the capacities of the emergent civil society;
- ✓ Numerous **advocacy missions** towards decision makers, including two missions to Brussels;

- ✓ **14 press releases and statements** to disseminate the information on the situation on Human rights and fundamental freedoms in Tunisia.

>EMHRN in action

1. Political developments

Democratic transition and elections

- On 1-2 February, in cooperation with Actions in the Mediterranean, a round table was organised on the role of the opposition during the transition. Members of Tunisian political parties and of the constituent assembly, current and former MPs of various European parliaments (Belgium, Germany, etc.) as well as representatives of the Tunisian civil society took part in the event. Discussions focused on the following themes: the opposition and democracy; parliamentary opposition: European models and practices; the role of political parties in the opposition.

Women's rights

- On 8 March in Tunis, at the occasion of the international Women's day celebration, the EMHRN mission and the Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates (ATFD) held a roundtable attended by a large number of human rights activists and associations to examine how the second draft of the proposed constitution addressed the issues of gender equality and women's rights. Concomitantly with the round table, an exhibition of photographs of women's rights activists from around the world and of Tunisian women who contributed to the democratic transition was held in the precincts of the National Library.
- On 6 May, the mission, in partnership with Coalition des femmes de Tunisie, held a conference on the place of women's rights in the constitution. More than 60 activists, constitutional law experts and members of the Constituent Assembly took part in the event. The key

More than 900 participants from some 250 associations took part in the second edition of the Civil Society Forum organised by the EMHRN, in cooperation with the LTDH, the ATFD, the Doustourna network, the UGTT, ATIDE and the FIDH. Grouped into 15 thematic workshops, participants worked on various facets of the electoral process. With the contribution of experts, they discussed the election law, election monitoring, the role of women and youth in the electoral process and electoral disputes and complaints. The workshops produced comprehensive reports with concrete recommendations on the involvement of the civil society during the next elections. A work plan based on the pooling of efforts of the various players has also been announced in the framework of the initiative on a civil society alliance for the elections.

recommendations of the civil society concerning the latest draft were highlighted and potential advocacy actions and means of pressure were discussed.

- On 12 August, a public debate was held, in cooperation with the Hrayer Tounes coalition, for a number of women activists and representatives of the media. The exchanges focused on key civil society recommendations on the latest constitutional draft and its coherence with international norms, particularly with regard to women's rights. On 13 August 2013, the Hrayer Tounes coalition organised a march to the National Constituent Assembly to deliver these recommendations. Tens of thousands of people took part in the event.

Transitional justice

- On 17-19 December, the Coordination nationale indépendante de la justice transitionnelle, the EMHRN, the EMHRF, the UNDP, the OHCHR and the ASF held an international conference to highlight the main human rights violations that occurred in Tunisia since its independence, and look into what role a transitional justice process could play in this respect in light of the adoption of a law on transitional justice by the National Constituent Assembly. More than 150 participants took part in the event during which the Moroccan, Polish and South African experiences were evoked.

Human Rights culture and education

- In line with its promotion of a human rights culture, the EMHRN backed the organisation of the international human rights film festival held in Tunis 24-28 September. This second edition of the festival gave the general public a chance to watch movies from many different cultures that address issues related to human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- The EMHRN supported the AIHR's launching of the network 'Pact' for a civic and political culture. The EMHRN also supported the organisation of public events held on 10 December to commemorate the first anniversary of the Tunis Pact for Human Rights and

Freedoms. During the evening, cultural activities at El Teatro were organised in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- Finally, the EMHRN gave its support to the organizers of the Hacker-Fest festival on digital literacy held at Sidi Bouzid on 20-22 December. This festival gave the local population the opportunity to exchange on key issues in the context of the transition, including access to information, freedoms of expression and opinion, the digital space, the protection of personal data.

Political violence

- In view of the upsurge of political violence directed against Tunisian political parties and members of associations, several Tunis-based national and regional/international organisations, including the EMHRN, organised a national congress against violence in an effort to put an end to a scourge that seriously endangers the transition process and the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms. On 8 April, a press conference attended by approx. 100 journalists and human rights activists was held at the Maison de l'Avocat to highlight this initiative and present its objectives to the general public. On 25 April, around 150 militants from some 80 associations and 30 political parties took part in a workshop to select the issues to be addressed during the final conference, to discuss the pact against violence and proposals on mechanisms and strategies to put an end to political violence, as well as the role the civil society and the media should play in the fight against violence. This major national conference, which took place on 18 June in Tunis, was attended by key community and political players who discussed various sub-themes before coming up with a final draft of the national pact against violence and terrorism. The official signing of the pact took place the following day.

2. Work in the regions of the interior

Decentralizing the debate on the constitution

- In an effort to extend the debate on the new constitution to the regions of the interior, the EMHRN, in partnership with the LTDH, the Doustourna network and the Association des Magistrats Tunisiens (AMT), organised the following events: On 3 March, in cooperation with the Association des droits de l'Homme, a public debate in Tataouine gave local militants and citizens the opportunity to discuss the proposed constitution with constitutional experts and national activists. On 23-24 March, two roundtables on the constitution were organised in the northwestern regions of Kef and Siliane to give the local population the opportunity to prepare recommendations to the constituent assembly.

Supporting newly-established associations

- The EMHRN gave its support to the first public event organised on 18 March by the Association Tahadi at Sidi Bouzid in central Tunisia, to discuss the challenges and obstacles faced by freedom of expression and freedom of the press and the impact in the regions of the interior (communicating the information, airing the problems of the regions, etc.). Around 100 participants from all areas of Sidi Bouzid, including an outstanding number of women and young people, took part in the event.
- In cooperation with the Association de citoyenneté of Djerba, the EMHRN organised in June a reflection workshop and a conference on the theme "The Democratic Forces in Tunisia: Reality and Prospects", gathering respectively 60 and 80 participants from various local associations and political parties. The goal of the workshop and the conference was to bring together communities and political players from all leanings and ideological backgrounds to exchange on problems related to the democratic transition, as well as on the violations of human rights and collective and individual freedoms.
- In partnership with the Lotos association of Djerba, the mission organised a presentation of the movie 'Manmoutech' on Djerba on 30 June. It was followed by a discussion on freedom of association in Tunisia in the aftermath of the elections of 23 October 2011.

Follow-up on the Civil Society Forum in the regions

- The regional workshops in follow up to the Civil Society Forum allowed local experts and representatives the associations and political parties in each region to review the final document of the Forum and to put forth their key recommendations from a regional perspective. Attendance to the various workshops by local associations was outstanding. The workshops, to which took part members of local associations in high

numbers, also constituted an opportunity to initiate the building of bonds of trust and reciprocity between local players and experts on one side, and the local authorities on the other.

3. Thematic actions

Promoting economic and social rights

- Economic and social rights (ESR) were a key element underlying the demands of the revolution: this led the EMHRN to organize a series of specific activities on ESR. On 28-30 October, the EMHRN, the UGTT and FTDES held a conference on ESR of women working in the textile industry. Some 80 people, mostly trade union officials, attended the conference during which a FTDES reported on the situation of women in the textile industry. In addition, underpinning its constant support of union activism in the mining basin since the 2008 uprising, the EMHRN backed the 2nd edition of the Mining Bassin Forum held in Redeyef on 2-3 November. This forum intended for the general public included public debates and workshops to which took part the local population. The major concerns of the local population with respect to ESR were addressed and concrete proposals based were put forward. Finally, on 15-16 November the EMHRN and the FTDES organised a workshop on alternative development models in the Maghreb and their potential impact on economic and social rights.

Raising awareness on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- On 11-12 May, in cooperation with the UGTT, the EMHRN organised a conference in Monastir on the rights of migrant workers in the Euro-Med region. The participants reviewed the major agreements, conventions and treaties dealing with the rights of migrant workers and discussed the labour movement's role in protecting those rights. The EMHRN's contribution focused on the new EU-Tunisia mobility partnership and its non-respect of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
- On 4-7 July, in cooperation with the FTDES and the FTCD, the mission organised a reflection workshop on migration and the rights of migrants in the context of the Tunisia-EU partnership. The seminar began with a critical presentation of Tunisia's migration policy, especially with respect to the EU. It then addressed priority issues including the conventions regulating migration between Tunisia and its European partners. The main theme of the seminar was the protection of migrants and their access to social security, particularly in light of demographic changes affecting the migrant

population (aging). Other issues such as problems related to dual citizenship, military service, political rights and child custody were also raised.

4. Capacity-building

- The EMHRN conducted a number of advocacy trainings to address the needs of the emergent civil society and contribute to the development of new local players. A training on “The privileged Tunisia-EU partnership: opportunities and challenges for human rights and democratic reforms” was attended by 18 participants in April 2013. In cooperation with the organisation New Tactics in Human Rights, a training in Thala attended by 18 participants aimed to strengthen the strategic planning capacities of newly-created associations, including the planning and execution of advocacy work and campaigns. The same training was provided to EMHRN’s partners in the Gafsa mining basin. In October, a training for 15 participants focused on the use of the social media and audio-visual tools in mobilisation and advocacy work.
 - Many historical and emerging associations in Tunisia are requesting training on communication ensuring the visibility of one’s association and its actions. It was agreed with members and partners to prioritize interpersonal communication since community-based and outreach work had been chosen as a key work method by most associations. Thus the EMHRN organised a training on interpersonal communication, debating and negotiation skills for 15 associations.
- its ties with its historical members, including the LTDH, the ATFD, the IADH, and widen its spectrum of partners through a solid network of some 60 to 70 associations which, while mostly newly-established, are now considered key players of the NGO community in Tunisia. The EMHRN is also involved on an ad hoc basis with a wider array of some 200 to 300 associations all over the country.
 - The action of the mission in 2013 was also characterized by a diversification of its activities and a widening of its geographical coverage, especially in remote areas where about 50% of its activities took place. Thanks to the strategic support it has been providing to partner associations and the high level of trust and credibility, the EMHRN was able to establish strategic partnerships with the most active associations in a number of regions.

>Our assessment

- The EMHRN succeeded in positioning itself as a key player on the NGO scene in Tunisia, and as a privileged interlocutor with both Tunisian and EU institutions on Tunisia-EU relations. By providing constant support and a valuable platform for networking and experience sharing, the EMHRN was able to revitalise and expand

“La recrudescence d’actes de violences perpétrés par des groupes autoproclamés « protecteurs de la révolution » et par des groupes extrémistes religieux à des fins essentiellement politiques à l’encontre des partis et militants politiques, des acteurs de la société civile mais également des syndicats, des artistes et des journalistes continuent de menacer le pluralisme politique, fondement d’un système démocratique. L’inertie des autorités a contribué au développement d’un sentiment d’impunité pour ceux qui tentent de mettre à mal les libertés fondamentales en Tunisie et a constitué une entrave à la paix sociale déjà fragilisée”

Contribution du REMDH au rapport de suivi Tunisie-UE au sujet de la violence politique élément majeur qui a marqué la scène politique tunisienne en 2013

Algeria

Striving for a stronger human rights movement

>The context

- Algeria has been facing many challenges from regional security threats to internal political uncertainties linked to the organisation of presidential elections in 2014. Algeria is confronted not only with the need of diversifying its economy, depending heavily on hydrocarbons, but also to mounting pressure from civil society in order to ensure a more fair and sustainable distribution of these revenues. Government efforts have done little to reduce youth unemployment rates, fighting corruption and much has yet to be done in terms of investments in education, training and health. Many social protests for dignity, labour rights and freedom are taking place across the country, often leading to violent riots due to the lack of dialogue with local authorities.
- Elected member of the Human Rights Council in November 2013, Algeria is expected to “uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights”. However, human rights defenders and trade unionists in Algeria are subject to threats, physical and verbal abuse, and judicial harassment solely for their activism in favor of human rights. This type of harassment is clearly attempting to discourage criticism in a context of escalating measures restricting freedom of expression and strengthening control over independent organisations, including their right to assembly. In this context, Algerian civil society is not only struggling to be recognized as full partner by the government but also to strengthen the human rights movement in the country.

>Our goals

- Promote a vibrant civil society in Algeria capable of influencing national human rights agendas and act on the international level;
- Support human rights defenders at risk by breaking the relative isolation of the Algerian activists;
- Develop the capacities of human rights organisations in Algeria to jointly plan and cooperate in having access to international human rights mechanisms at UN and EU level.

In 2013, our **work objective** was to:

- Organise two solidarity group meetings between Algerian and European human rights organisations to engage them in a networking process;
- Conduct monitoring and support missions to Algeria at the request of human rights defenders;
- Contribute to strengthening links and international solidarity among professional groups (trade unions in particular) in Europe and Algeria;
- Conduct advocacy and awareness raising activities in relation to EU, EU member states and UN bodies;
- Disseminate a brief on the EU-Algeria relations and on the situation of human rights in Algeria;
- Reinforce capacities of Algerian human rights defenders on EU and UN human rights mechanisms and advocacy.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **1 Solidarity Group meeting** in Madrid (May).
- ✓ **2 advocacy visits** in Madrid (May) and Brussels (June) and several meetings with Embassies (January, June and November).
- ✓ **4 advocacy, solidarity and fact-finding missions** in Algeria (January, June, October and November).
- ✓ **2 briefings on the situation of human rights** (May and October) disseminated to civil society groups, media, governments, EU/UN bodies; regular contributions to EU institutions in the framework of the ENP.
- ✓ Publication and dissemination of **7 public contributions** (press releases, statements and open letters) addressing concerns over FOAA, union freedoms, restrictions and harassment of human rights defenders in the country, truth and justice for the victims of enforced disappearances in the 90s, restrictions to Algerian visas (from January to December).
- ✓ **Solidarity campaign** in support to independent trade union activists in Algeria jointly with international trade unions (November).

>EMHRN in action

- The **Algeria Solidarity Group (ASG)** meeting was held in May 2013 in Madrid and hosted in ACSUR-Las Segovias’ headquarters. Its purpose was to evaluate and plan joint actions for the following months. In parallel, a public conference on “The commitments in terms of human rights and civil society in the

FOCUS: Meeting on Freedom of Association in Algeria

One year after the publication of the restrictive association law nº12-06, a meeting on freedom of association was organised in Algiers in January 2013 at the initiative of the Algeria Solidarity Group members, gathering more than 50 people from independent trade unions and associations in order to discuss the obstacles face by these organisations to register and activate.

Participants pointed out that administration curtail their right to form associations and trade unions through several abusive practices. While the law no. 90-14 on the conditions for exercising trade-union rights provides that the receipt acknowledging the creation of a union is to be issued within 30 days, the registration of several new trade unions both in public and private sectors is in fact unduly delayed by the administration. According to the new law on associations, the establishment of associations is no longer a matter of simply notifying the authorities but it's subject to prior approval by the government.

framework of the EU-Algeria relations” was organised in cooperation with ACSUR at the cultural institute Ateneo of Madrid. The EMHRN also facilitated a round-table discussion with Encuentro Civil Euromediterraneo, a platform composed by Spanish unions and associations working in the Euromed region. The meeting gave the opportunity to inform the platform members about the main concerns of Algerian organisations, in particular public freedoms, and harassment of human rights defenders, women's rights and the question of the disappeared in the 90s.

- ASG members organised **two local seminars** with the support of the EMHRN. The first seminar on freedom of association was held on January 12, 1st anniversary of the entry into force of the restrictive law on associations. The meeting gathered more than 50 people from independent trade unions and associations. Participants exchanged their views on the main obstacles to register their organisations in Algeria and on ways to enhance communication and solidarity among them. A seminar on women's rights was also organised in cooperation with the EMHRN gender working group in Algiers from 25 to 26 January 2013. Debates, being the first of its kind (see gender chapter) allowed to make an assessment of the situation, identify needs, challenges and obstacles in relation to the realization of social, economic, political and cultural rights for women.
- The cooperation with Algerian lawyers allowed the EMHRN to constantly monitor cases of judicial harassment against union activists and human rights defenders, especially young activists. As a result, the EMHRN was able to monitor and provide support to 38 individual cases of human rights defenders and union activists who were subject to harassment as a consequence of their human rights activities. Their cases were regularly raised publicly in all EMHRN releases and contributions provided to international human rights mechanisms.
- Several representatives of international trade unions and International Labour Organisation (ILO) received information from EMHRN on a regular basis, concerning mainly obstacles encountered by independent trade-unions when applying for registration, obstacles to enjoy their right to expression and peaceful assembly, threats and judicial harassment against trade-union activists. In parallel to the fourth ASG meetings in Madrid, EMHRN facilitated additional meeting with Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO) in Spain. CCOO was informed about obstacles to **legal registration of new independent unions and the violations of ILO conventions ratified by Algeria**, especially those relating to freedom of association. EMHRN sent two solidarity letters to the Director General of ILO and Algerian authorities in order to raise concerns about the lack of dialogue with independent unions and about allegations of reprisals against trade unionists. In November 2013, the EMHRN took part in a joint initiative along with international confederations and trade unions aimed at showing solidarity with SNAPAP President Rachid Malaoui. More than 4,300 letters were sent to the Algerian presidency, but left without any reply. At local level, the EMHRN supported the organisation of a second local meeting in February with new independent trade unions that are facing obstacles in the registration process and whose members are under threat. Finally, the EMHRN supported local trade unions efforts to include Algeria in the list of countries to be examined by the Committee on Application of Standards during the annual session of ILO in Geneva.
- In January 2013, the EMHRN facilitated several **meetings between Algerian members of the ASG and**

diplomats of the EU Delegation as well as of member states' Diplomatic Representatives. In April, the EU Delegation in Algeria held a consultation of civil society in view of this Subcommittee. For the first time, due to EMHRN actions, all EMHRN members and partners were invited and attended the meeting.

- In June, EMHRN vice-president was invited as a speaker at the hearing on relations between EU and Algeria organised by the European parliamentary delegation for cooperation with the Maghreb. In the margin of the fourth ASG meeting held in Madrid, the EMHRN organised a series of advocacy meetings mainly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID), political parties, members of the Parliament and members of the parliamentary intergroup on human rights. EMHRN participated to a joint side-event organised by CFDA in Geneva in September, ahead of the elections of the UN Human rights Council.
- The coordination within the ASG allowed EMHRN to issue several joint contributions, in particular **two briefings on the situation of human rights within the relations between the EU and Algeria**, addressed to the EU and EU Member States decision-makers. The first was produced ahead of the EU-Algeria Subcommittee 'Political dialogue, security and human rights', on 10 May 2013, along with Algerian members and FIDH. The briefing was then translated into Spanish and used as advocacy tools during advocacy meetings held in Madrid in April 2013. The second briefing of the year was issued on 15 October and intended to be a contribution to the annual evaluation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) made by the EU.
- EMHRN submitted **official visa request to visit Algeria** in May 2013 as both the EMHRN president and EMHRN Executive Director are refused entry into Algeria. Despite a meeting with between EMHRN executive director and the Algerian Ambassador in Copenhagen on 4 June 2013, the request failed to be taken into consideration.

>Our assessment

- Main obstacles remain, on one side, the restrictions imposed by the Algerian authorities on delivering visas to send official delegations and, on another side, the fragmentation of the Algerian civil society landscape. On the latter, the tensions existing on the ground often weakened the coordination and negatively impacted the ASG and its capacity to make long term plans.

- Algerian HRDs and HROs along with European organisations have been involved in the ASG since 2011. While the group was not successful in achieving deeper coordination at local level, it allowed members to **exchange information and carry out some joint activities**. Members actively contributed to the meetings and defined the main opportunities for action. In the second half of the year, the ASG meeting was postponed due to tensions among some group's members and the EMHRN had to redefine its methodology by carrying out a participative evaluation of the action and holding regular meetings with members.
- We believe that **EMHRN and Algerian partners have increased their capacities to monitor and quickly circulate information on cases of harassment of HRDs**. EMHRN was able to maintain regular contacts with human rights defenders on the ground and to react quickly and publicly on some cases of human rights violations even though access to the country remained difficult due to visa restrictions. EMHRN and its members contributed to providing and disseminating detailed and updated information on broader developments in the field of civil, political and social economic rights. Cases of violations could be addressed and communicated widely to relevant local and international stake-holders.
- ASG members were involved in several advocacy actions and were able to **improve their common advocacy message towards the EU, the ILO and the UN**, as well as some key European countries, such as Spain and France. The EMHRN also kept advocating for a more proactive role of the EU delegation in Algiers on the protection of human rights defenders and the effective implementation of EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. The EU-Algeria relations remained high on the agenda of the EMHRN and its members targeting in particular the ongoing negotiations between EU and Algeria on the adoption of an ENP Action Plan.
- The EMHRN closely followed the situation of trade union freedoms. In this regard, **coordination with international trade unions** was initiated. The regular flow of information towards European trade unions and ILO was useful to draw attention to the situation in Algeria, making the EMHRN an important source of information. Finally, the two local seminars allowed the gathering of dozens of union activists from different regions of Algeria, who have few occasions to meet, but also to collect relevant information on new independent unions trying to register.

Syria

Promoting a vibrant human rights movement in Syria capable of influencing national human rights agendas and political transition

>The context

- Since 2011, Syria has been the scene for one of the gravest human rights crises in recent history. The peaceful movement of protest for democratic reforms that emerged in 2011 progressively turned into a military conflict which materialized in 2012, alongside with the multiplication of warring parties and the growing involvement of regional and international powers.
- The Syrian conflict resulted in a wide scale human rights crisis, with an estimated number of 80 000 documented deaths for 2013 only, millions of refugees and IDPs and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with severe regional repercussions. Torture, rape, summary executions and other blatant violations of International humanitarian law have been routinely committed by the Syrian government, while various armed groups –including foreign salafi-jihadi combatants – have increasingly perpetrated gross rights violations. The UN Commission of Inquiry established in 2011 repeatedly stated that crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed in Syria, but this did not trigger any international dynamic that would bring an end to the deep-rooted culture of impunity in the country.
- Despite the successive campaigns of repression carried out by the Syrian government against civil society and human rights activists, Syrian human rights organisations maintained a high level of activities. Syrian human rights groups have mainly focused their efforts on the documentation of violations and crimes committed in the country, to conduct awareness raising and advocacy, as well as on dissemination of the culture of human rights and citizenship in particular in areas outside the control of the government. The Syrian human rights community is firmly committed to pave the way for a genuine Syrian based accountability process for governmental, anti-governmental, non-state actors who perpetrated international crimes.

>Our goals

- To promote a vibrant human rights movement capable of influencing national human rights agendas and political transition.

- To protect Syrian human rights defenders at risk by mobilizing European and international actors;
- To reinforce capacities of Syrian human rights groups to document and advocate on violations occurring in the country;
- To provide spaces for Syrian human rights groups to network and develop joint strategies at national and international levels.

In 2013, our **work objectives** were to:

- Assist human rights defenders at risk or in need and alert the decision makers and the public on threats facing human rights defenders in Syria;
- Contribute to strengthening Syrian human rights defenders work in human rights documentation and international advocacy;
- Conduct advocacy mission at international level to help Syrian human rights activists to have their voices heard;
- Provide spaces where Syrian human rights activists can interact, as well as strengthening their links to regional and international counterparts.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ **2 training workshops on documentation of violations of human rights** organised in Turkey (January and April) combined with a **distance learning curriculum**.
- ✓ **2 training workshops on advocacy** organised in Egypt (March) and Geneva (June) focusing on UN and EU human rights mechanisms.
- ✓ **4 Advocacy visits** to the EU institutions in Brussels and UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- ✓ **Numerous statements, press releases and official statements to EU and UN bodies** including written and oral interventions to the human rights council; statements to the European Parliament; coordination of joint initiatives towards the UN Commission of Inquiry.
- ✓ Publication of a **report on “Violence against women, Bleeding Wound in the Syrian Conflict”** (November).
- ✓ Production of a framework document presenting a **common assessment of challenges facing Syrian human rights organisations conducting documentation work in Syria** endorsed by a number of key Syrian and international players.

>EMHRN in action

- **The EMHRN has been very active in providing solidarity support to Syrian HRDs at risk.** It issued urgent appeals and statements for HRDs detained arbitrarily, including oral statements to key EU and UN bodies. Letters – either closed or open – and public statements were issued in cooperation with Syrian and international partners. Individual support and resettlement was carried out for individuals whose security was particularly at stake, in cooperation with the EMHRF, in a confidential manner and in coordination with several EU member states.
- The EMHRN implemented a series of **training workshops on documentation of HR violations for Syrian HRDs**, on documentation techniques and international criminal law, as well as protection and security of data and individual documenters. Sessions were also dedicated to discussing specific projects of documentation carried out by participating groups. 2 trainings organised in Turkey in January and April have gathered a total of 42 participants from 15 Syrian human rights groups operating in the different regions. Upon recommendation of participants, a particular emphasis was put on three key priority issues, namely extra-judiciary killings, violations occurring inside detention centres and violations of women’s rights.
- **The EMHRN also initiated a distant learning process** with the intent to carry out sustainable and systematic support for Syrian HR groups working in documentation. A small number of Syrian activists was able to work in close coordination with international experts in order to produce accurate documentation files. The outcome of this work was shared with international bodies, including the UN COI on Syria, hence fulfilling capacity building, advocacy and documentation components.
- **The EMHRN co-organised two trainings on international advocacy** with its members Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) for a total of 28 Syrian activists representing 12 Syrian HR groups. A first training held in Egypt in March focused on the UN human rights system (treaty bodies, charter based bodies, special procedures etc.), International Humanitarian Law principles, advocacy opportunities offered by EU mechanisms, techniques and strategies. It specifically allowed Syrian HRDs to discuss advocacy strategies towards the HRC and prepare two written interventions, submitted for the June 2013 HRC session. An advanced training including actual

FOCUS: Solidarity Campaign with Syrian HRDs arbitrarily detained

In November 2013, the EMHRN coordinated a statement unprecedentedly co-signed by 37 Syrian HRO and 11 INGOs regarding the wide spread phenomenon of arbitrary arrests and abductions of human rights defenders in Syria. The statement was released 24 hours after the UN announced the holding of the Geneva 2 conference (January 2014), therefore sending a strong signal to all parties in the negotiation process that absolute priority should be granted to the release of all persons arbitrarily detained in Syria.

advocacy initiatives was subsequently organised in Geneva in June by the EMHRN and ISHR, during a 2 weeks period for a group of 6 Syrian activists, focusing on practical aspects of the advocacy work throughout experts, NGO professionals and diplomats’ presentations pertaining to the different aspects of the HRC.

- During the Geneva visit in June, the delegation made two oral statements on the situation of HRDs detained in Syria and international crimes perpetrated by the various warring parties in Syria. It also held numerous meetings with UN member states, Commission of Inquiry, mandate holders and specialists of the Syrian situation. A side event was organised for the Syrian delegation to present challenges of documentation work.
- In September 2013, the EMHRN sponsored another delegation of 4 Syrian human rights activists to the HRC, on the occasion of the interactive dialogue on the report of the Commission of Inquiry. The delegation addressed the COI with an oral statement, and met with the Commissioners of the COI, including chairman Paolo, in order to exchange on the political line and strategy followed by the COI to investigate gross abuses in Syria.
- The EMHRN also facilitated an advocacy visit to EU institutions in Brussels in September 2013 for a group of 3 Syrian HRDs, who met with key EU institutions dealing with the Syrian file including the External Action Service, Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament and the EP gender equality Committee, European Endowment for Democracy, and members in the Maghreb/Mashrek working group of the Council of the EU. The delegation also made two statements during a hearing at the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament and met

with a number of NGOs working on Syria to discuss their advocacy priorities.

- A 2 day coordination meeting took place in Brussels (September) for a group of key players active in the field of capacity building in documentation for Syrian HR groups and Syrian HR activists. 9 INGOs and 7 Syrian HROs agreed on a common perspective on key challenges, opportunities and strategies facing human rights data collectors in Syria and groups engaged in capacity building for those. The meeting resulted in a common framework document presenting challenges facing Syrian HROs conducting documentation work while discussing ways to work in a more coordinated and sustainable manner. This document is mainly aimed at addressing stakeholders and institutions which provide or wish to provide support to Syrian human rights defenders, including donors and NGOs.
- For the International Day to combat Violence against Women (25 November), the EMHRN contributed to shed light on patterns of violations affecting women in Syria throughout its report “Violence against women, Bleeding wound in the Syrian conflict”. This report was drafted by a Syrian women rights activist, in close contact with psychologists and physicians and with the support of an expert in documentation. It highlights the need to unveil the different patterns of violence against women in the context of the conflict and advocates for all perpetrators to be held accountable in the future. It also stresses the critical need for the international community to intensify efforts for the rehabilitation of victims and communities. The report attracted wide media attention and the reports’ findings were quoted in media outlets such as the BBC, NBC, Deutsche Welle, RFI, Le Monde.

>Our assessment

- After more than 3 years of deepening crisis in Syria, the EMHRN is identified by Syrian and international human rights group as a credible and efficient partner in relation to supporting HR activists in Syria and to reinforcing their capacities in fields such as documentation and advocacy.
- The advocacy missions carried out to the UN and EU institutions contributed to raising the awareness of decision makers not only on the human rights situation in Syria but also on challenges facing documentation efforts of Syrian HRDs.
- The EMHRN contributed to the development of platforms for systematic consultations and joint

actions with key international and Syrian partner organisations. In 2013, the EMHRN played a vital part in setting up the framework for an international campaign calling for the release of peaceful activists detained in Syria by either governmental forces or non-state actors. The campaign was effectively launched in early 2014 under the slogan “Free Syrian Voices” in close contact with Amnesty International, FIDH, Front Line Defenders, Human Rights Watch, Reporters without Borders, and in close cooperation with key Syrian groups monitoring cases of detainees.

- A process of collaboration and exchange among a number of Syrian HR groups, international HR organisations and decision makers was successfully initiated. More than 60 Syrian HRDs from 15 Syrian HR groups have participated in activities undertaken or facilitated by the EMHRN. These efforts have allowed Syrian groups to enhance coordination amongst themselves and to gain direct access to key decision makers, thus increasing the impact of their work and their credibility at international level.
- Evaluations carried out by trainees after the workshops indicate that trainings allowed them to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the different levels and objectives of the documentation process, allowing them to have greater impact on media, decision makers and international organisations. Similarly, advocacy missions to Geneva and Brussels contributed to significantly reinforce capacities of Syrian human rights organisations with regard to advocacy towards international HR mechanisms.

The EMHRN believes that focusing on capacity building while fostering networking has an important added value and will remain highly relevant in the future as it increases dramatically the capacity of Syrian human rights groups have a central role in the future, including by paving the way for transitional justice in the country.

Transversal actions

Advocacy work

Effectively communicating our recommendations to relevant international bodies

>The context

As the Arab world is marred by instability and rising violence with dire consequences for human rights, EMHRN is concerned that the global policies of EU and its member states towards this region, especially the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), has failed to effectively promote human rights and support independent civil society to take part in transition processes crucial for democracy. That is why EMHRN is urging the EU and its member states to step up their commitments to promote human rights, democratisation and support for independent civil society. The EMHRN develops specific advocacy messages on each country of the region, targeting EU leaders in Brussels, in key European capitals and in the field to denounce grave human rights violations and promote human rights and democratic reforms.

>Our goals

- To influence EU human rights policies in the Euro-Med region and pro-actively take part in dialogues and advocacy for strengthening political action in support of the EU human rights instruments.
- To engage in the EU Neighbourhood policy, the action plans, progress reports, association council meetings and sub committees where human rights issues are raised.
- To monitor the implementation of the EU's human rights guidelines and the development of national human rights strategies.

In 2013, our **advocacy priorities** were (a part from the work on Israel and Palestine):

- Egypt, due to the very alarming situation and the impact this country has on the region;
- Tunisia, due to its close ties with the EU, to ensure that the transition process remains respectful of human rights.
- Algeria, with the aim of pushing the EU to take human rights fully into consideration in their relations with this country.
- Syria, to ensure EU support to the work of CSOs.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ 10 visits of civil society delegations to the EU institutions (4 from Egypt, 2 from Tunisia, 1 from Algeria, 2 from Syria);

- ✓ 3 training workshops on the ENP in Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria, and 2 presentations on EU advocacy in EMHRN WGs on Freedom of Association and Migration;
- ✓ 4 briefs on major human rights issues in Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria;
- ✓ 5 notes in view of the 2014 ENP Package and progress reports.

>EMHRN in action

- On **Egypt**, several advocacy missions took place in Brussels, Paris and Cairo. EU Member States were defined as key targets for our advocacy work, which contributed to an evolution of the EU policies, particularly on FOA and the draft NGO law, issues which became high on the EU and Member States' agenda with Egypt. This work will be continued in 2014 and extended to UN institutions in Geneva.
- On **Tunisia**, the EMHRN worked extensively to mobilise EU institutions and Member States on worrying trends such as violations of freedom of expression, political violence, women's rights and repression of protests.
- On **Algeria**, the EMHRN urged the EU to better integrate human rights in its negotiations with the Algerian authorities in the ENP framework. In particular, focus was put on Algerian new restrictive laws, the increasing repression by the authorities, as well as the lack of access for INGOs, making Algeria the country in the region with the most serious restrictions on access of foreign human rights workers requiring visas.
- On **Syria**, both UN and EU institutions were targets of our advocacy, aiming to give visibility to the work of Syrian human rights defenders. Other requests included facilitation of visas for human rights defenders and funding for Syrian human rights organisations.
- On **Morocco**, our advocacy focused on the framework of the Morocco advanced status in the ENP, and the reform of the judiciary.
- More generally speaking, advocacy work is also conducted within our thematic programmes. The EMHRN advocacy department is involved in the planning of specific strategies to be implemented by the different EMHRN programmes. Our thematic priorities are also integrated in our country advocacy

work. In 2013, the main thematic priorities integrated in our advocacy work were freedom of association, gender equality and women's rights.

>Our assessment

- We believe that our advocacy work contributes to strengthening the voices of human rights and democracy activists in the context of the major political changes taking place in the South Mediterranean. We are providing an interface between EMHRN members and partners and the EU institutions despite the challenges arising from internal problems in these countries and the halt of most structural relations with the EU. We remain a civil society focal point for expertise on EU-bilateral relations with the countries of the region.
- In the priority countries for 2013, we have enabled civil society to be more systematically involved in the monitoring and shaping of EU's policies, making constructive use of the EU human rights and democracy instruments, while addressing their inconsistencies. The overall impact was that civil society voices were regularly heard when it comes to Euro-Mediterranean relations in the context of the ENP.
- We achieved an impact on EU policies in the region by ensuring that our concerns were duly taken into account by the EU in its dialogues with third countries (Human rights subcommittee meetings) or its private diplomacy (e.g. demarches on freedom of association in Egypt). We developed high-level contacts with key EU representatives in Brussels and increasingly at the local level, notably in Tunis, in Cairo and in Algiers. In addition, we are increasingly consulted by EU institutions ahead of high level official visits to the region, especially to ensure contacts between local civil society and EU policy makers.
- However, despite the ENP renewed commitments on human rights and support to civil society following the Arab Spring, our concerns were rarely raised in public diplomacy, as the EU leadership is reluctant to use this tool with the Arab world. In addition, EU's interests with regional powers such as Egypt or Algeria prevented the full implementation of EU's human rights policies. As a consequence, we have developed work to target EU Member States, and especially the most influential actors on EU foreign affairs policy, in order to achieve more at the EU level.

FOCUS: A new advocacy guide on EU relations with Southern Mediterranean countries

In 2013, the EMHRN published a guide on "Promoting Human Rights in North Africa and in the Middle East: Navigating the EU institutional maze and its relations with the Southern neighbourhood" accompanied by an Advocacy Toolkit "EU and its Neighbours: What scope for Human Rights NGOs?".

A new young generation of activists received training on EU advocacy, enabling them to be more systematically involved in the monitoring and shaping of EU's policies, making constructive use of the EU human rights and democracy instruments, while addressing inconsistencies and incoherence of these.

- We developed and increased our work towards EU Member States in capitals (France on Egypt, Belgium on Syria), both through meetings with their Brussels representatives and on the ground through contacts with their embassies. Advocacy targeting other actors, such as the UN institutions and their member states, will also be developed in the future.
- The EMHRN received strong public support of its positions from the European Parliament (resolutions on Egypt and Syria, MEPs' visits to Algeria and Tunisia – including meetings with local civil society and an audition of Tunisian Prime Minister). The European Parliament has always been a key actor for the promotion of human rights over the world and bringing visibility to grave human rights violations. This is why this institution will remain an important target for our advocacy on the Euro-Med Region.

Communication work

Effectively communicating our recommendations to relevant international bodies

>Our goals

- To efficiently voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members within the membership, to civil society, decision makers and media.

In 2013, our **communication priorities** were:

- To improve our communication capacities by establishing a communication department with staff specifically assigned with targeting media in the Maghreb, the Mashrek and European English and French language press;
- To integrate external communication aspects of our work in all phases of activity planning, to ensure maximum visibility of EMHRN and its members' activities.

>Our results in 2013

- ✓ Establishment of a communication department and adoption of a communication strategy document;
- ✓ Regular support to EMHRN's programmes (press releases, publications, media relations, etc.)
- ✓ 6 communication campaigns;
- ✓ Improved media coverage of EMHRN activities (see media review in annex)

>EMHRN in action

- 2013 was a transition year for the EMHRN's communication work, as it engaged into sustained efforts to pursue the complete revamp of the ways in which it communicates. In order to better support EMHRN's advocacy objectives and to provide a higher degree of visibility, both to the activities and to the Network as such, the communication team has completely restructured its staffing and followed up on new working routines. New tools have been introduced to facilitate internal communication, and the EMHRN Executive Committee adopted a new communication strategy in late 2013, to be implemented from 2014 onwards.

- EMHRN has also set up online campaigns to achieve more impacting promotion of the issues it defends and advocate to a wider outreach. Dedicated webpages and specific use of the social media (Facebook and twitter) for each online campaign have helped mobilise activists and partner NGOs on the cause at the heart of the campaign. Over the reporting period, the following campaigns have been set up by the Communication department:
- **Free Osman Campaign:** A dedicated webpage to widen and foster solidarity actions with then detained Turkish EC member Osman İşçi. The campaign included an online petition, an update section, a 'send-a-book' campaign to invite activists to send books to Osman while in jail ;
- **The International Women's Day 2013 Campaign** (March 4-11): A combination of a tweet feed regularly sustained over the week-long campaign, a blog piece published in an online pan-European magazine, a press release on the IWD2013 (March 8) and a political statement distributed widely;
- **'Stop Impunity in Syria'/ 'White Wave for Syria' Campaign:** To celebrate the anniversary of the revolution in Syria (March 15), the EMHRN created a Facebook page and dedicated a page on its website to the white wave for Syria campaign. Part of a world-wide campaign, the EMHRN involved staff from all its offices and called on its member organisations to join in. Activities and messages of solidarity were widely promoted on the EMHRN website and via social media.
- **EMHRN's Zero Impunity for VAW Crimes Campaign:** started around the EMHRN's regional conference on violence against women (VAW) held in Amman (cf. Gender section), this campaign incorporated heavy media relation work, a dedicated page on EMHRN website and active promotion towards EMHRN contacts.
- **The '2 Tweets a Day to Fight Violence against Women' Campaign:** During 16 days of activism against VAW (25 November – 10 December), interesting and compelling

facts extracted from the VAW report were tweeted in the three EMHRN languages (Arabic, French and English).

- **Electronic launch of the EMHRN's 2013 Regional Study on Freedom of Association in the EuroMed (part one: legal framework):** This on-line promotional campaign of EMHRN's latest regional study on FoA was carried out as part of the EMHRN's International Human Rights Day in order to give specific attention to the escalating violations in the right to assemble peacefully and form associations that the entire EuroMed region has witnessed over the course of covered period. Country chapters have been designed as stand-alone publications so as to facilitate access to country-based research and country-based recommendations. Specific communication work was carried around the Tunisia, Algeria, Spain and Egypt chapters where EMHRN has held preparatory meetings and/or formally presented the study. A more regional approach in promoting EMHRN's finding on the issues is expected to be thought out when part two (violations on the ground) is ready for publication (second half of 2014).

>Our assessment

- EMHRN Communication efforts have resulted in a harmonisation of EMHRN language, translation and visuals. As a consequence, communication items are more media-savvy, more impacting and this more widely picked up. Texts are shorter and the style more didactic so as to reach out to a broader audience and engage EMHRN's target groups in a more efficient and compelling way. Both the form and the language of EMHRN messages are consistently adapted to the targeted audience and presented in visually enticing documents.
- The use of social media allowed stronger interaction with relevant stakeholders, decision makers or non-affiliated militants and thus empowered EMHRN's message to be diffused massively and in a timely fashion. The number of retweets, messages and 'likes' has soared over the past six months and further solidified EMHRN as the one of the preferred references hosting Human Rights debate in the Euro-Med. Better anticipation in using the EMHRN's social media channels (Twitter and Facebook accounts), coupled to the automated feed of the EMHRN's releases and publications have led to more visibility and to a widening

cyber community supporting/relaying EMHRN's themes and core messages. A more systematically proactive use of the twitter feed and the Facebook pages over the reporting period has led to significantly higher numbers of followers and circulation of EMHRN releases, news and promoted material.

- Diversification of materials also reinforced EMHRN's presence on the HR NGO scene. Different formats (short press releases for the media, longer political statements for the decision makers and stakeholders, reports, technical policy briefs, factsheets, memos, etc.) were customised to the message needing delivery, the objectives of the communication attempt and the target audience.
- The communication department also proved vital in helping EMHRN better target its messages. The centralisation of all EMHRN contacts and a strategised mailing methodology contributed to stimulate exchange with external partners but also to keep internal communication afloat and smooth. This has further enhanced EMHRN's reputation as a central actor on the HR scene, particularly in light of the rapid political changes sweeping through the region.

Our Organisation

Organisational developments

Restructuring and reinforcing internal capacities

>Internal reorganisation of EMHRN

- Throughout 2013, following the adoption of the EMHRN strategy by the EMHRN General Assembly, the secretariat continued to gradually implement the changes in its organisational structures that had been discussed in the course of 2011 and 2012. The principles for the restructuration of the secretariat include a reduction of the number of offices, the establishment of two larger sub-regional offices for the Mashrek and the Maghreb, the set-up of a Communication Department and an Administration, Human Resource and Finance Department, the redistribution of tasks amongst specific positions (Executive Director, Programme Director, Heads of sub-regional offices, etc.) and, in a longer term, the establishment of a training unit.

The following main results were achieved in 2013:

- EMHRN office in Tunisia was further built-up in the course of 2013 with the rent of larger premises and the recruitment of an Administrative, Finance HR Officer and an Administrative Assistant. In October 2013, the office, initially dedicated to Tunisia only, was officially turned into a Maghreb sub-regional office and will gradually expand its activities beyond Tunisia over the next years.
- It was also decided in 2013 that EMHRN sub-regional Mashrek office would be established in Amman (the concrete implementation of this decision is expected in 2014), and that the Paris office, which closure had been initially envisaged, would remain as work carried out by staff in this office needs a safe environment.
- EMHRN Communication Department was set up, and a Communication Assistant and a Communication Director, both based in Brussels, were hired in April 2013. The Director's task will include the recruitment in 2014 of two Communication Officers dealing respectively with Europe and the Arab countries. Additional communication positions are envisaged for late 2014 and early 2015.
- EMHRN Administration, Human Resource and Finance Department was also formally established in September 2013 with a Director at its head. A new Chief Accountant

based in Copenhagen was hired in September 2013 to lead the finance work and accounts preparations. In order to better reflect their tasks and the changes at the level of the Department, all Administrative Officers based in EMHRN offices outside Copenhagen became Administrative, Finance HR Officers as from September 2013.

- EMHRN Advocacy Department, based in Brussels, was reshuffled in the course of 2013 with the recruitment in January of an Advocacy Assistant and, in September, of an additional Advocacy Officer dealing with the Mashrek region. The other Advocacy Officer previously dealing with the whole region, reoriented her portfolio to deal exclusively with the Maghreb countries. Moreover, the Palestine Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) project was formally included in the Advocacy Department in 2013.

>Secretariat Staff

- With outset in the new organisational structure of the EMHRN and in consultation with its executive bodies and its staff, all job descriptions within the secretariat were revised and eventually adopted in September 2013.

Beyond the recruitments of new staff mentioned above, other changes took place in 2013:

- A Fundraising and Contract Management Officer, based in Copenhagen, was hired in April 2013 in order to strengthen fundraising activities and relations to donors.
- A Justice Coordinator was hired in March 2013 with the aim of re-launching and strengthening EMHRN work in the field in Justice at the time where justice-related issues are crucial in many of the countries in the region.
- In Paris, the Syria project was reinforced with the recruitment of a Project Assistant supporting the Project Coordinator
- By 31 December 2013, EMHRN secretariat included following staff (interns excluded):

Position	Name	Office	since
Management			
Executive Director	Marc Schade-Poulsen	Copenhagen	1997
Programme Director	Marit Flø Jørgensen	Copenhagen	1999
Advocacy Director	Sandrine Grenier	Brussels	2001
Communication Director	Hayet Zeghiche	Brussels	2011
Administration Finance HR Director	Fabrice Liebaut	Copenhagen	2006
Head of sub-regional offices			
Head of Maghreb office	Ramy Salhi	Tunis	2012
Advocacy			
Senior Advocacy Officer	Émilie Dromzée	Brussels	2005
Advocacy Officer	Nicole Lambert	Brussels	2011
Advocacy Assistant	Elise Poumay	Brussels	2013
Project Coordinator	Nathalie Stanus	Brussels	2008
Project Assistant	Rayan Jalal	Brussels	2013
Thematic and country projects			
Project Coordinator	Lina Al Qurah	Amman	2007
Project assistant	Susanna Fridlund	Amman	2011
Project Coordinator	Bérénice Michard	Paris	2012
Project Coordinator	Shadia El Dardiry	Copenhagen	2012
Project Coordinator	Maysa Zorob	Brussels	2013
Project Coordinator	Mathieu Routier	Paris	2009
Project Assistant	Muna Samawi	Paris	2013
Project Coordinator	Marta Semplici	Paris	2009
Project Coordinator	Ramy Khouili	Tunis	2012
Executive staff			
Executive Secretary	Maibritt Damgaard Jensen	Copenhagen	2002
Fundraising and Contract Officer	Alexandre Baron	Copenhagen	2013
Communication staff			
Communication assistant	Vassia Spanaki	Brussels	2013
Administrative staff			
Chief Accountant	Karin Søndergård	Copenhagen	2013
Financial and Administrative Assistant	Migena Jakobsen	Copenhagen	2008
Administrative Finance and HR Officer	Marie Picalausa	Brussels	2009
Administrative Finance and HR Officer	Sarah Tal	Amman	2011
Administrative Finance and HR Officer	Ana Borojevic	Paris	2012
Administrative Finance and HR Officer	Housseem Cheikhrouhou	Tunis	2013
Administrative assistant	Jihen Rahmouni	Tunis	2013

>Administration & Human Resources

- Being recently established, the Administration Finance and Human Resource Department aimed throughout 2013 at strengthening its internal coordination, procedures and policies. This was done via regular meetings, more frequent field visits, set-up of specific task forces, etc.

As far as the administration and finance work is concerned, following results were achieved in 2013:

- The finance team was strengthened thanks to the recruitment of additional staff in Copenhagen and a redefinition of the tasks allocated to the Administrative Finance and HR Officers in the offices outside Copenhagen.
- Several task forces were established to prepare the ground for the update of EMHRN Financial Manual (as the result of the new organisational structure) and of its policies on specific issues, including per diem, VAT. Concrete outcome of this work is expected in 2014.
- The decision was made to upgrade EMHRN current bookkeeping and accounting software in order to provide more capacities and access to additional features. This will also be implemented in the course of 2014.
- A new framework contract with EMHRN's external IT-services providers was concluded in 2013 which led to an improvement in the overall IT-situation.

Throughout 2013, EMHRN implemented a range of actions as part of its staff and staff development policies:

- In consultation with the staff, via their elected representatives, and with the executive bodies, the revision of the wage scales for the Brussels, Paris and Copenhagen offices was discussed throughout 2013. At the end of the year, the process was nearly completed, and the revised wage scales were expected to be adopted and implemented in the first quarter of 2014. The process of revising EMHRN internal Staff Regulations was postponed to 2014.
- Annual individual appraisal talks - with subsequent reports - were carried out in June-September.
- In October 2013, a 3-day Staff Days meeting, gathering all EMHRN Staff, was successfully organised outside Tunis. The programme of these 3 days was divided between information and discussion on the Tunisian political context, team-building exercises and a series of planning sessions.
- A number of training initiatives were carried out in the course of 2013, and a training plan for 2014 was elaborated on the basis of the outcome of the annual talks and communicated to the staff (early 2014).
- EMHRN continued its policy of holding regular meetings (each 6 weeks) between the management and the staff representatives to discuss overall staff-related issues. The minutes of these meetings are then distributed.

Executive bodies

Steering the Network's activities and facilitating communication among members

>Executive Committee

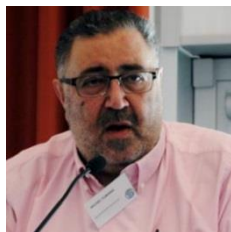
- The Executive Committee (EC) issues general directives for the activities of the EMHRN and consults with the members on important issues relating to Network policy in between General Assemblies (every three years). Among other things, the Executive Committee is responsible for:

- Preparing the program of activities and budgets to be submitted to the General Assembly meeting;
- Submitting the Network's annual Report of Activities and annual Financial Reports;
- Creating working committees, and establish ad hoc or permanent working groups to design specific policies and programs and ensure the effective delivery of the mandate/agenda of the Network;
- Overseeing the work of the various Network structures or Working groups;
- Enhance and facilitate communication among the members of the Network.

- The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years and they may be re-elected for two further terms. According to their expertise, the EC members closely monitor different Working groups or focus areas as the political referents, being thus the link between the EC and the Working groups.

- The Executive Committee is composed by the following members (elected at the General Assembly in 2012):

- **Michel Tubiana** is a lawyer, long-time human rights defender, former president of the French Human Rights League (LDH) from 2000 to 2005, and currently the President of the EMHRN (since 2012) and the Honorary President of the French Human Rights League.



- **Anitta Kynsilehto** is the political referent for the WG on Migration, Refugees & Asylum seekers. She represents TAPRI - Mediterranean Studies Project, Tampere Peace Research



Institute, Finland, and is a board member of the Finnish Peace Research Association and the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

- **Eugenia Papamakariou** is the political referent for discrimination and freedom of conscience and a member of the WG on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians. She is the General Secretary of the Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EEDDA), Greece, and member of EEDDA's group on the Middle East and the Arab World.



- **Isaías Barreñada** is the political referent for economic and social rights as well as for the Maghreb. He is a member of the Executive Committee of ACSUR, Spain. At the national level, Isaías Barreñada is working as a MENA specialist on economic and social rights with associations and trade unions. At the international level, he is working on human rights of populations in conflict situations as well as minority and women's rights.



- **Raffaella Bolini** is the political referent for European issues. She is a member of the bureau of Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (ARCI), Italy, and the Vice president of European Civic Forum. In addition she is a member of the Liaison Group of the World Social Forum International Council.



- **Søs Nissen** is a member of the WG on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians and the political referent for advocacy issues. She is working as the Programme manager for the MENA region at Dignity, Denmark. She has for 10 years worked with the Danish anti-torture NGO to support human rights work against torture in the region. Prior to that she was active for many years in Danish advocacy and solidarity work to support the Palestinian cause.



- **Nassera Dutour** is the Vice president of the EMHRN and the political referent for the Working group on Freedom of Assembly and Association. She is furthermore the President of Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie.



- **Moataz El Fegier** is the Treasurer and political referent for the Mashrek. He represents the Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non-Violence Studies, Egypt. He is member of the Board of directors and the President of the Executive Committee of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.



- **Alya Cherif Chammari** is the Executive director of the Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité, Tunisia. Within the Network, she is the political referent for the Working group on Women's rights and Gender mainstreaming, and participates on behalf of the Network in the preparations of the civil forum and the ministerial meetings on women's rights in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.



- **Ayachi Hammami** is the political referent for the Working group on Justice. He is furthermore a board member of the Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), Tunisia, and a founding member of the Collectif du 18 octobre pour les droits et libertés.



- **Mahmoud M. AbuRahma** is the political referent for the Working group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians. He is furthermore the Director of Communication and International relations at Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Palestine.



- **Osman Isci** is the political referent for the EMHRN's work on Turkey and a member of the Working group on Freedom of Association and Assembly. He represents the Human Rights Association (IHD), Turkey, and is in the editorial board of the journal, Kampplatz, editing articles on human rights. In addition, he is part of the Human Rights Research Network which is composed of academics in Turkey.



>Main events in 2013

- The EMHRN's Executive Committee (EC) met in Istanbul on 15-17 February. Discussions focused on the EMHRN's internal restructuring process as well as the launch of a communication strategy for the Network and a review of the current membership criteria. The EC also validated the Working groups' strategic direction and activities of 2013, and discussed in details the project on Women's rights and gender mainstreaming. The EC meeting was preceded by a mission to Ankara on 11-13 February to show solidarity to EC member Osman Isci, IHD, in prison and to meet with the Turkish Ministry of Justice and the EU delegation.
- The EC's second meeting this year took place in Paris on 14-16 June. During their meeting, the Executive Committee members discussed in details the projects on Syria, Algeria, and Freedom of Association and Assembly. They continued their previous discussions on the communication strategy and the membership criteria and in addition initiated a process leading to a fundraising strategy. Special attention was given to an analysis of the human rights situation in Turkey presented by EC member Osman İşçi who was released from prison in April 2013.
- Finally, on 22-24 November, the EC met in Beirut. The points for discussion included the change of the Network's name and logo as part of the communication strategy, as well as reflections on the Network's future advocacy strategy. The EC also launched its work on economic and social rights, and a new fundraising strategy was adopted at the meeting. In the margin of the EC meeting, the EC met with the EU Delegation, the Chair of the Parliament's Human Rights Commission, the

Ministry of Interior, and the Danish Embassy on 21 November.

- The three EC meetings in 2013 were all occasions for the EMHRN to set up meetings with its members, potential new members and civil society organisations as well as with government and EU representatives in the countries of concern. The issues for these meetings included among others the current refugee and human rights situation in Turkey; the human rights debates in France in the EuroMed context; and the influence of the situation in Syria on Lebanon. As previous years, the EC strived at changing between the North and the South when deciding on the location for their meetings while bearing in mind the political situation and the issues at stake in these countries, of interest to the Network and its members.

>Memberships

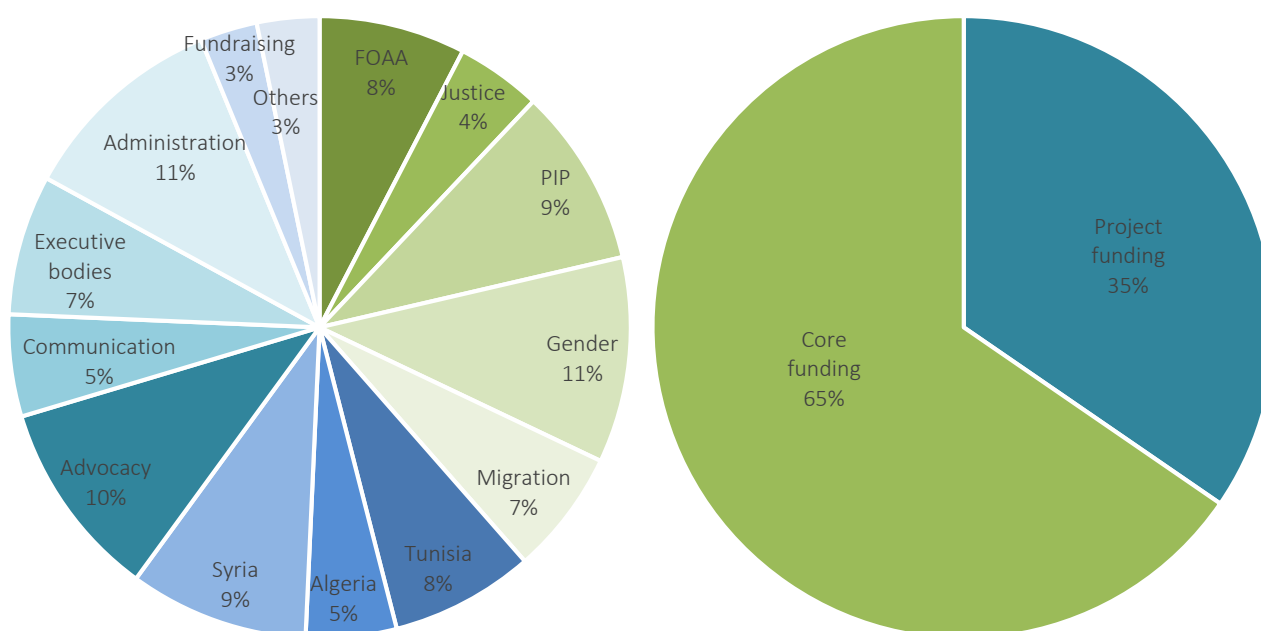
- In 2013, the Executive Committee continued its review of the current membership procedures with the aim of ensuring that the EMHRN members cover and actively contribute to the current areas of focus. As a result, the EC members adopted a new paragraph on membership criteria in the By-laws and decided to present amendments to the Statutes to the General Assembly in 2015 on the issue of membership, in particular as regards the exclusion and renewal of members. According to the revised By-laws, the next General Assembly will be asked to set the ceiling for the number of members in the Network, taking into consideration the financial implications of membership. Within this ceiling, the Network should strive at covering as many themes as possible when adopting new members, with special attention to women's rights.
- At their meetings in 2013, the EC also looked into the new applications for membership and approved two of them, the membership thus reaching the total number of 93 by the end of 2013. These 93 members are currently divided into 68 Regular members, 9 Associate members, and 16 Honorary members. In the course of 2013, the EC members decided that there should be a balance of membership organisations from the North and the South within the range of a ratio of 40-60%. At the writing of this report, 59% of the EMHRN's Regular members (with voting right) are from the South, and 38% from the North (the remaining 3% are in-between).

Finally, the EC decided to have the issue of membership on the agenda for each Quartet (Steering group) meeting, thus being able to monitor these issues more closely in-between the EC meetings. In the future, and following the next General Assembly, a member of the Quartet will also be designated to proactively recruit new members of the Network, knowing that there are some countries where the EMHRN is not yet represented or only represented with few members.

Financial overview of the year

Expenses in 2013 (in EUR and % of total)

Thematic interventions	1.200.247	38,5%
Freedom of Association and Assembly (FOAA)	237.101	7,6%
Independence of the Judiciary and Transitional Justice	138.284	4,4%
Middle East Conflict and respect for Human Rights and International Human Rights Law (PIP)	290.038	9,3%
Gender Equality and Women's rights	333.012	10,7%
Rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers	201.465	6,5%
Economic & Social Rights	346	0,0%
Country interventions	669.768	21,5%
Tunisia	232.805	7,5%
Algeria	146.737	4,7%
Syria	290.226	9,3%
Secretariat	1.143.249	36,7%
Advocacy	321.799	10,3%
Communication	165.007	5,3%
Executive Bodies	226.823	7,3%
Administration	336.818	10,8%
Fundraising	92.802	3,0%
Others:	101.063	3,2%
TOTAL	3.114.327	



Breakdown of EMHRN expenses and sources of income in 2013

Fundraising and donors

Ensure the Network's independence and financial sustainability

>Fundraising strategy

- In 2013, the EMHRN recruited a Fundraising and Contract Management Officer, allowing to reinforce its fundraising activities as well as support to its project coordinators in reporting to donors.
- Furthermore, the EMHRN Executive Committee adopted a fundraising strategy, articulated around three general principles :
- **Ensure the network's independence:** the EMHRN accepts funds from public and private donors when they sustain activities that fall within the EMHRN's remit, strategy plan and work programme, and only insofar as the EMHRN's right to freely express its opinions and policies is respected, and no political conditions are set by the donors.
- **Minimise our donor dependence:** The EMHRN aims at being in a financial position where one donor does not fund more than one third of EMHRN total activities.
- **Ensure our financial sustainability:** The EMHRN aims at developing reserve funds, when accepted by the donors, that can be used during transition periods when funding is scarce.
- With those principles in mind, the EMHRN's fundraising strategy intends to:
 - maintain good relations with current donors and expand core funding;
 - ensure new project funding for the 2014-2016 activity plan, and beyond;
 - increase EMHRN's reserve funds;
 - explore and identify new sources of income;
 - better apply fundraising and donor relations principles at all stages of project coordination.

>Our donors

- In 2013, the EMHRN signed a new 2 years' partnership agreement with DANIDA in the framework of the Danish Arab Partnership Programme. Renewed core support from SIDA was also confirmed.
- The EMHRN continues to receive extensive project funding from the European Commission, as illustrated

by a new grant signed in 2013 targeting specifically the mobilisation of Tunisian civil society around EU-Tunisia relations. In 2013, Open Society Foundations also renewed its financial support, thus remaining an important contributor to EMHRN activities, in particular with regard to its advocacy, communication, and Palestine/Israel-related activities.

- **The EMHRN would like to acknowledge and thanks the following donors for their financial support in 2013:**

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET
DANIDA | DANMARKS
UDVIKLINGSSAMARBEJDE



Press releases and publications in 2013

ENGLISH SECTION	
EMHRN releases	
17-01-13	EMHRN Note ahead of the EU-Israel Informal Human Rights Working Group meeting
20-02-13	Morocco: End unjust trials by military courts
21-02-13	Algeria: Waves of repression against labour rights activists
14-02-13	Turkey: Stop judicial harassment against Human Rights Defenders
11-02-13	Eradicating Dissent in post-Mubarak Egypt
08-02-13	EU marks 'Arab Spring' two years on: Time to walk the talk!
06-02-13	EMHRN condemns the assassination of Chokri Belaïd
28-01-13	Third trial date for Sahrawi activists in Morocco:EMHRN observer goes out
23-01-13	Egypt: Two years after the revolution, the protection of basic citizens' rights remains non-existent
08-03-13	International Women's Day in the Euro-med: Side-lined after the Revolution: Worsening Plight of Women in Transition Countries
11-03-13	Human Rights Compromised in Egypt
18-03-13	Ashton Challenged by MEPs on Egypt
26-03-13	96 Algerian Human Rights Defenders Banned from Attending World Social Forum in Tunis
02-04-13	EMHRN-PHROC Statement ahead of the EU-PA Subcommittee on Human Rights
11-04-13	Following Ashton-Morsi meeting: EMHRN urgent appeal to withdraw the Egyptian draft NGO law
11-04-13	22 Trade Unionist and Human Rights Defenders Released in Turkey
12-04-13	Police harassment of migrants in Calais noted by the Human Rights Defender
12-04-13	Open letter to the Director-General of the International Labour Office
16-04-13	Morocco: Fully independent judiciary must be established
17-04-13	The Tunisia – EU Privileged Partnership
30-04-13	No human rights mandate for MINURSO in Western Sahara!
03-05-13	Urgent action for Syrian women
17-05-13	Syria: Rights Activists Face Terrorism Charges
20-05-13	Algeria-EU: What commitments in terms of Human Rights and Civil Society
27-05-13	13 NGOs at UN Human Rights Council: 'Impunity Fuels Conflict in Syria'
05-06-13	Syria: Deteriorating health of arbitrarily detained human rights lawyer Khalil Ma'touq
05-06-13	Turkey: The unacceptable repressive spiral

05-06-13	Statement on the situation in Egypt
06-06-13	Memorandum in view of the Third ministerial meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean
07-06-13	EMHRN, CIHRS: Joint Statement on Syria
14-06-13	European Commission and EEAS: Step Up for Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly in Turkey
20-06-13	World Refugee Day 2013: EU-Turkey Agreement Puts Refugee and Migrant Rights on the Line
24-06-13	Tunisia-EU: Ashton and Barroso must make human rights the focus of their meeting with Laarayedh!
02-07-13	Discriminatory bill to evict tens of thousands of Bedouin communities in Israel from their ancestral lands
10-07-13	Turkey: Trade unionists and human rights defenders tried as alleged terrorists
15-07-13	Stop criminalising peaceful protest in Turkey!
15-07-13	EMHRN Statement on the situation in Egypt
26-07-13	Opposition Leader Killed in Tunisia
26-07-13	EMHRN Statement - EU Guidelines on the exclusion of financial support to Israeli settlements – A positive move towards respect of international law
16-08-13	EMHRN declaration on the events in Egypt
23-08-13	Deadly Chemical Attack in Eastern Damascus: Let UN Team Investigate and Allow Humanitarian Aid!
02-09-13	35 NGOs ask the Arab League Secretary General to discuss Egypt during coming Ministerial Council
05-09-13	Setting up of a 'Foundation of Women for the Mediterranean': What autonomy? What Independence?
12-09-13	Ministerial Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean in Paris: No Progress on women's rights
13-09-13	Twenty years since Oslo Accords, Europe must craft old commitments into a new peace formula
18-09-13	Syria: Oral Intervention of human rights NGOs at UN Human Rights Council
24-09-13	Syria's Refugees: Victims of Fortress Europe
27-09-13	The SEAHORSE MEDITERRANEO maritime surveillance programme: EU security dangerously off-beam?
07-10-13	Lampedusa: murderous Europe
09-10-13	Lampedusa tragic shipwreck: a wake-up call for the European Union?
10-10-13	Frontex: Controlling or Saving Lives?
17-10-13	Lesvos/ Greece the new European cage for migrants
24-10-13	Press Release to the Heads of State and Government ahead of the European Council summit on 24 and 25 October 2013
31-10-13	European Council: EU leaders fail migrants and refugees yet again
08-11-13	Solidarity with Independent Unionists in Algeria: Call for the reinstatement of Rachid Malaoui, President of SNAPAP
13-11-13	Recommendations for the Progress Report of the Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Egypt in 2013
18-11-13	Greece – Turkey: 'The route is dangerous, people are dying'
18-11-13	Final Declaration: Violence Against Women, Crimes and Impunity

19-11-13	Syria- Human rights organisations call on Syrian government to implement the UN Resolution
21-11-13	Turkey: EMHRN Executive Committee Member and 71 Human Rights Defenders to face Turkish Heavy Penal Court for third hearing
22-11-13	Strengthening efforts to combat impunity within the EU and its Member States for serious international crimes
25-11-13	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: Violence against women, bleeding wound in the Syrian conflict
26-11-13	Urgent appeal for the release of prisoners of conscience and all detainees in Syria
03-12-13	EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnership: Externalisation policy in disguise
06-12-13	Israel's Culture of Impunity: Nothing Less than Accountability!
09-12-13	Open letter to Justice El Hadji Malick Sow
10-12-13	Human Rights Day in the Euromed: Are Governments stripping away our Freedom of Assembly?
11-12-13	Abducted human rights lawyer Razan Zaitouneh and her three colleagues must be released unharmed
12-12-13	EMHRN Report on the 'Gezi Park' protest movement in Turkey and its repression
18-12-13	Syria- Ongoing arbitrary detention of human rights defender Abdulhadi Sheikh Awad
18-12-13	International Migrants Day 2013: Maghnia, life at a crossroads
20-12-13	EU and Member States: International law must apply in all aspects of cooperation with Israel
20-12-13	EMHRN and Oxfam condemn raids and arrests targeting the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights

EMHRN Publications

15-01-13	EMHRN Training Guide and Toolkit on EU Advocacy
18-12-13	Maghnia: Crossing the Uncrossable Border
12-12-13	Mission Report on the protest movement in Turkey and its repression
25-11-13	Violence against women, a bleeding wound in the Syrian conflict
27-11-13	The Right to Freedom of Assembly in the Euro-Mediterranean Region
04-11-13	APRODEV – CIDSE – EMHRN recommendations for the 2013 ENP Progress Report for Israel
25-06-13	Observation of the trial of Osman İşçi, human rights defender and trade-unionist
21-06-13	An EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement
19-06-13	The 'Gdaim Izik' Trial Observation Report

القسم العربي

البيانات الصادرة عن الشبكة

اليوم الدولي للمهاجرين 2013 مغنية: الحياة على ملتقى طرق	18-12-13
سوريا- الاعتقال التعسفي المستمر لمدافع حقوق الإنسان عبد الهادي الشيخ عوض	18-12-13
رسالة مفتوحة بمناسبة زيارة رئيس الوزراء الرسمية للجزائر	15-12-13

14-12-13	"إصلاح سياسي" أم تقييد إضافي للمجتمع، وللمجال السياسي في الجزائر؟ "تحليل نقدي"
12-12-13	مجلس الشراكة بين الاتحاد الأوروبي والمغرب: إصلاح القضاء وحماية المهاجرين
10-12-13	يوم حقوق الإنسان في المنطقة الأوروبية-المتوسطية: هل الحكومات تجردنا من حرية التجمع؟
03-12-13	الشراكة من أجل حرية التنقل: السياسة 'المقنعة' لتصدير الحدود
26-11-13	نداء عاجل لإطلاق سراح جميع سجناء الرأي و المعتقلين في سوريا
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