



EMHRN Executive Committee meeting

Paris, 24-26 October 2014

Minutes – *approved*

The EMHRN Executive Committee meeting took place in Paris on 24-26 October 2014. During the EC meeting, i.e. on 24 October, the Executive Committee invited representatives of the French civil society for a Working dinner in order to discuss the West's military intervention in the EuroMed region. These representatives included Françoise Brié, Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes; Catherine Teule, LDH; Maryse Artiguelong; Mohamed Bensaid, CRLDHT; and Mohieddine Cherbib, FTCT. In addition, the President of the IHD (Turkey), Ozturk Turkbogun and Anne-Sophie Schaeffer (EMHRF) were invited for the dinner.

PARTICIPANTS

Executive Committee (EC) of the EMHRN:

Michel Tubiana (President), Nassera Dutour (Vice president), Moataz El Feghery (Treasurer), Ayachi Hammami, Eugenia Papamakariou, Alya Chérif Chammari, Anitta Kynsilehto, Osman İşçi, Søs Nissen, Mahmoud AbuRahma and Isaías Barreñada (EC members).

Secretariat:

Marc Schade-Poulsen (Executive Director), Vincent Forest (Advocacy Director), Marta Semplici (Programme Coordinator Algeria, on 25 October and for Working dinner), Mathieu Routier (Programme Coordinator Syria, on 26 October and for Working dinner), Léa Scarpel (FOAA Program Officer, for Working dinner), Muna Samawi (Project assistant Syria, for Working dinner) and Maibritt Nielsen (Executive Secretary, rapporteur).

Other participants:

Bahey El Din Hassan (CIHRS) (on 25 October), and Ozturk Turkdogan (IHD) (on 25 October and for Working dinner).

Françoise Brié, Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes; Catherine Teule, LDH; Maryse Artiguelong; Mohamed Bensaid, CRLDHT; Mohieddine Cherbib, FTCT; and Anne-Sophie Schaeffer (EMHRF) (for Working dinner).

Absent with notification:

Raffaella Bolini (EC member).

AGENDA

1. Welcome - Approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes from the EC meeting on 6-8 June 2014
2. Report from the Secretariat
3. Discussion of activities in Algeria and the situation of the LADDH
4. Membership issues, including membership applications
5. Public event addressing civil society in France
6. Financial report from the Secretariat, including fundraising
7. Discussion of EMHRN activities in Syria, including the Kurdish areas
8. Discussion of EMHRN activities in Egypt
9. Israel-Palestine and EMHRN action in this regard (ICC sanctions, divestment etc.)



10. Discussion of the EC's internal functioning, including round on the EC's members' intention (or not) to run for another period
11. Amendments of the Statutes
12. General Assembly 2015 - an update on fundraising and venue, settling the list of documents for the GA, and agreeing on the draft agenda and roadmap (time schedule) for the GA
13. Miscellaneous



1. Welcome - Approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes from the EC meeting on 6-8 June 2014

Moderator: Michel Tubiana

Michel Tubiana welcomed the EC members to their last meeting this year.

Decision:

- The minutes from the EC meeting on 6-8 June 2014 were approved without any observations.

Documents:

- 1.1 Agenda (for approval)
- 1.2 Minutes from the EC meeting on 6-8 June 2014 (for approval)

2. Report from the Secretariat

Moderator: Alya Cherif Chammari

Marc Schade-Poulsen presented the report from the Secretariat (see 2.1 EMHRN Activity Review no. 3) and invited the political referents to comment on the activities of the different Working groups (activities are only mentioned below when they are not included in the 2.1 EMHRN Activity Review no. 3).

FOAA

Marc Schade-Poulsen informed that the second report on Freedom of Assembly was currently being finalised; it situates the question of Freedom of Assembly in the context of democracy, and includes chapters on Turkey, Syria and Europe. Osman Isci informed that the report will be launched in the EU Parliament on 8 December 2014.

PIP

Nassera Dutour asked if the EMHRN would participate in a joint mission to Gaza with the FIDH. Michel Tubiana answered by saying that the mission would take place, however he was not be able to participate in it for health reasons and it had not been possible to find a replacement for him.

Gender

Alya Cherif Chammari informed that, during the Working Group meeting on 20-21 June 2014, it had been decided to distribute a questionnaire via the gender focal point in each Working Group to the EMHRN members, asking the members to specify their needs in order for them to integrate the gender dimension. In addition, the Regional Report on Violence against Women was presented during a conference on violence against women that took place during the election period in Tunisia on 29 September 2014. She added that the violence against women is increasing. Within the coming 15 days, the draft law on violence against women would be submitted in Tunisia, and she expressed her hope that the new parliament would be able to adopt this draft law.



Migration

Anitta Kynsilehto informed that ARCI had organised an event in Lampedusa on 1-5 October 2014 to commemorate the last year's tragedy close to Lampedusa. The next Working Group meeting would take place in Istanbul on 7-9 November and would be followed by an advocacy mission to Ankara to present the Turkish version of the Frontexit report on the Greek-Turkish border and the outcome of the findings of the report under the Frontexit campaign.

Mission to Morocco/ the Western Sahara

Marc Schade-Poulsen informed the EC of the EMHRN's first mission to the Western Sahara that will lead to a report with recommendations. He noted that the right to self-determination would be touched upon in the report that would also be linked to the West Bank's fishing agreements with the EU.

Isaias Barreñada added that the EMHRN had held several meetings with institutions and ministers in Morocco to know how the reforms are carried out and to discuss the issue of the Western Sahara. During the mission to the Western Sahara, one group went to the South of Morocco and the other group to Laayoune (main city of the contested territory). Although the second group was followed by the police all day, it was able to meet with different associations (political rights, youth, handicapped people etc.). These associations are not all officially organised and do not have any official headquarters so the meetings took place in private houses. Among the EMHRN members, only the AMDH has activities on the issue of the Western Sahara. Isaias Barreñada noticed that the main issue is that Morocco does not accept any political independence. The second group noticed that some progress has been made due to the efforts made by the different associations. They are familiar with the EMHRN and would like to take part in the activities of the Network, possibly in the Working Group on FOAA. Finally, Isaias Barreñada thought that the EMHRN should make a presentation on the situation of the Western Sahara at the General Assembly in 2015. Marc Schade-Poulsen added that it had been interesting to be in Tan-Tan town in the South of Morocco where you find whole neighbourhoods with Saharan flags painted on the walls, and according to him, the quest for identity is linked to the quest for EcoSoc rights.

Michel Tubiana informed that, during the mission the EMHRN had met with the Minister of Interior and although this meeting had been positive, he noted that there is currently a setback for civil society in Morocco as AMDH and other associations' actions and demonstrations are prohibited. He finally noted that Emilie Dromzee had not been allowed to enter Morocco upon her arrival to the country, and that it had been necessary to make some contacts before she was allowed in.

Spain

Isaias Barreñada said that for the last 5-6 years, the economic situation has worsened in Spain, and there is corruption within the trade unions and political parties. Recently, there has been a discussion in the parliament on security of the population, and the parliament will soon vote on limitations in relation to the right to demonstrate. He added that Ceuta and Mellilla that had a military functioning many years ago are now used for amongst other trafficking and money laundering. A fence has been built to prevent the migrants from entering Spain; however some migrants still succeed in entering but are met by violence by the police although it is against the Spanish law. The incidents there had been filmed and have had a huge impact in Spain, showing this new reality.

Security policy

Marc Schade-Poulsen informed that the Network would like to have some security guidelines for staff when travelling, and since security is a political issue, the staff members would need the EC's full support for it.

Documents:

2.1 EMHRN Activity Review no. 3 (*for information*)

2.2 Work plan 2014 (*for information*)



3. Discussion of activities in Algeria

Moderator: Osman İşçi

The EC discussed the situation in Algeria at length.

Documents:

3.1 Main indications for EMHRN work on Algeria in 2015 (*for discussion*)

4. Membership issues, including membership applications

Moderator: Eugenia Papamakariou

Decisions:

- The Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA) was adopted as a Regular member.

Documents:

4.1 Membership overview (*for information*)

4.2 Membership application overview (*for information*)

4.3 Membership application: Center for Legal Aid – Voice of Bulgaria (*for approval*)

4.4 Membership application: Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA) (*for approval*)

5. Public event addressing civil society in France

Moderator: Marc Schade-Poulsen

6. Financial report from the Secretariat, including fundraising

Moderator: Moataz El Fegjery

Marc Schade-Poulsen presented the *6.1 Budgets and accounts* for the EC's approval, in which the non-secured funding was marked with red. He noted that since the last EC meeting on 6-8 June 2014, several funding applications had been sent. Marc Schade-Poulsen had to propose a saving plan to the EC members for their approval in order not to arrive with a deficit in 2015.

Decisions:

- The EC approved the budgets and accounts
- Fundraising should be a matter of priority
- The Secretariat should find ways to maintain the activities of the Justice Working Group at a minimum
- Michel Tubiana, Ayachi Hammami, Marit Flø Jørgensen and other relevant staff members should hold a Skype meeting to see how the different assignments related to Justice could be distributed among the staff members.

Documents:

6.1 Budgets and accounts (4 sheets) (*for approval*)

6.2 Fundraising update (*for information*)



7. Discussion of EMHRN activities in Syria, including the Kurdish areas

Moderator: Michel Tubiana

The EC discussed the situation in Syria at length.

Documents:

7.1 Main activities of the EMHRN work on Syria (*for discussion*)

8. Discussion of EMHRN activities in Egypt

Moderator: Mahmoud AbuRahma

The EC discussed the situation in Egypt at length.

9. Israel-Palestine and EMHRN action in this regard (ICC sanctions, divestment etc.)

Moderator: Søs Nissen

The EC discussed the situation in Israel Palestine at length.

Decisions:

- The EC agreed to have a stronger position than previous in relation to Israel
- A procedure for working on urgent issues should be established.

Document:

9.1 Main activities of the EMHRN work on Israel-Palestine (*for discussion*)

10. Discussion of the EC's internal functioning, including round on the EC's members' intention (or not) to run for another period

Moderator: Anitta Kynsilehto

Without rapporteur

11. Amendments of the Statutes

Moderator: Isaías Barreñada

Michel Tubiana reminded the EC members that they had previously adopted the principle of having a Conflict Committee (CC) to avoid complaints during the General Assembly. Michel Tubiana then presented the document on the CC that he had drafted prior to the EC meeting and that should be included in the Statutes.

Following the presentation, Ayachi Hammami asked whether the EC or a member of the EMHRN has the right to seize the CC and Michel Tubiana answered that it would be the EC. Ayachi Hammami suggested not



suspending a member that is not following the Statutes or By Laws but instead sending a notice, and setting a timeframe for the EC to inform the CC and vice versa.

Osman İşçi said that usually, Conflict Committees have unequal numbers in order to be able to take decisions, however it was foreseen that the CC would be composed by two members from the South and the North respectively. Michel Tubiana thought that it was important that there was equality between North and South; however the President could have more weight to ensure that decisions could be taken.

The EC then discussed the different proposals for amendments (only included if any comments were made or any changes suggested to the proposals);

- Page 3: article 2.1

Søs Nissen said that she was not in favour of sub-granting as it has been a value for the EMHRN to have equal cooperation with its members and not compete on funding. Nassera Dutour agreed with Søs Nissen on this issue as it would open up the doors to many demands for funds and the EMHRN could be accused of favourising some organisations. Isaias Barreñada noted that sub-granting could also open up for opportunities.

Marc Schade-Poulsen said that the EU Commission asks beneficiaries to sub-grant funds in almost all calls for proposals. The EMHRF does sub-granting; however there could be cases where the EMHRF does not agree to a project. He suggested adding in the Statutes that sub-granting is granted on an exceptional basis by EC decision and define the criteria in the By Laws. Mahmoud AbuRahma agreed with this suggestion. Osman İşçi thought that the EC should make sure to examine the applications for sub-granting very carefully.

- Page 5: article 3.2

Michel Tubiana said that the suggested change to the Statutes was that the membership applications are examined and rejected or accepted by the EC – and no longer the GA. In case a membership application is rejected, the organization can contact the CC to contest the EC's decision. Mahmoud AbuRahma suggested that, instead of contacting the CC, this organisation could contact the General Assembly as a higher power. However, Isaias Barrenada did not think that a non-member should ask the GA to challenge any decision of the EC. Ayachi Hammami thought that it was important that the organisation whose membership application had been rejected could challenge the decision at the CC.

- Page 11: article 4.2.2

Michel Tubiana explained that an EC member can have three terms and afterwards three terms as President, however he did not think it was democratic that one person could be in the EC as EC member/President for 18 years, and it was therefore suggested to reduce the President terms to two.

It was agreed that if the President has not served three mandates as EC member, s/he can run for a third term as President. It should thus be added "if the person has already served as EC member before becoming President". Marc Schade-Poulsen should send the proposal in writing to Michel Tubiana.

- Page 13: article 4.2.5

Isaias Barreñada suggested to add what would happen if the President is unable to carry out his/her duties. Nassera Dutour suggested adding that if the Vice President does not accept to be the President, the EC would elect a new President. Nassera Dutour should send the proposal in writing to Michel Tubiana.

Marc Schade-Poulsen then noted that the EC had agreed to shorten the name of the Network. He suggested changing it for Euromedrights/EuroMed Droits with the full name in brackets. Michel Tubiana suggested Marc Schade-Poulsen to put this proposal in writing for the next EC meeting on 13-15 March 2015.



Finally, Michel Tubiana reminded the EC of the different deadlines in relation to the amendment of the Statutes, i.e. 75 days prior to the General Assembly, the EC's draft amendments to the Statutes should be sent to the members; 45 days prior to the GA, the members should send their amendments to the Statutes (submitted by at least 1/5 of them); and 30 days prior to the GA, the members should receive the amendments by the EC as well as the members. Michel Tubiana suggested sending the EC's amendments to the Statutes to the members in December 2014, asking them for their feedback to these amendments and leaving them with a deadline of 45 days prior to the GA to comment on them. He would remind the members of the procedures in relation to the amendments and the EC elections. The EC members would then discuss the amendments received from the members at their next meeting on 13-15 March 2015, and the suggested amendments to the Statutes would be sent to the members 30 days prior to the GA.

Decisions:

- Michel Tubiana will rewrite the document on the Conflict Committee and make it more coherent with the Statutes
- The EC agreed to the proposals for amendments to the Statutes with some minor adjustments (see above)
- The EC members should send their proposals for amendments to the Statutes in writing to Michel Tubiana as soon as possible in order for him to redraft the Statutes in time for the for the General Assembly procedures.

Documents:

11.1 Statutes - with amendments, including document on Conflict Committee (*for approval*)

12. General Assembly 2015 - an update on fundraising and venue, settling the list of documents for the GA, and agreeing on the draft agenda and roadmap (time schedule) for the GA

Moderator: Michel Tubiana

Marc Schade-Poulsen said that two issues remained to be settled in relation to the General Assembly (GA) in 2015, namely the venue for the GA and the preliminary agenda. The EC should approve the documents for the GA at the next EC meeting in March 2015. In relation to the venue, different possibilities have been explored, including Rome and Brussels, however very few governments funds of 200,000 EUR that they can allocate for the GA.

Vincent Forest said that in relation to Brussels, there are two options, the first option being to organise the GA at the Palais Egmont owned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however it is said not to be open during the weekends. He would double check if this is the case. The second option would be to organise the GA at the EU Parliament, however for security reasons, it also seems difficult to organise the GA there during the weekend. The City of Brussels seems willing to provide a reception during the GA.

Marc Schade-Poulsen added that Isaias Barreñada would look into the possibility of organising the GA in Seville with the support of the Andalus Development Agency. Michel Tubiana suggested that he could look into whether the National French Assembly or the House of the Mediterranean (regional council of the South of France) could fund the GA. In order to do so, he asked to receive a short presentation on the GA. He noted that the GA should be held in the North to ensure the participation of the Israeli. Finally, Marc Schade-Poulsen said that a decision on the venue should be made by the end of November 2014.

As for the 12.2 *General Assembly draft agenda*, Marc Schade-Poulsen noted that, compared to the General Assembly in 2012, the seminar in the beginning had been left out. He also added that the gender mainstreaming report should be part of the GA documents.



The EC discussed the agenda and came up with the following suggestions;

- To give the GA an overall title
- To limit the GA to two full days only, also for budgetary reasons
- To limit the EMHRF Council of Representatives to 1,5-2hrs
- The discussion of the GA Declaration (1 page) should not take long
- The discussion of the Statutes should not be placed on the last day of the GA
- It would be important to have a good moderator for the discussion on the Statutes
- A speaker could be invited to give an introduction around a specific theme in the plenary
- A speaker (possibly a representative from the EMHRN members) could be invited for the different workshops in order to give input to the human rights work
- The workshops should be kept in the agenda as they give some dynamism to the GA and offer the possibility to the members to discuss
- The specificities of the EMHRN could be linked to the topics of the workshops
- It should be considered how to report from the workshops, a suggestion being to write the reporting on boards in the hall to be read during the breaks, possibly five main conclusions and five recommendations for action

Decisions:

- The EC approved the roadmap and draft agenda for the General Assembly
- Three workshops will take place during the General Assembly in 2015, i.e. on
 - Militarization and state/non-state actors - Moataz El Fegjery and Mahmoud AbuRahma will be in charge of the organization of the work shop
 - Borders - Anitta Kynsilehto and Nassera Dutour will be in charge of the organization of the work shop
 - Developments following the Arab Spring - Søs Nissen and Eugenia Papamakariou will be in charge of the organization of the work shop
- The programme for the three workshops should be ready for the next EC meeting on 13-15 March 2015
- The Work Program, the Political Report, and the Annual report 2014 should be ready for the EC meeting on 13-15 March 2015
- Michel Tubiana will draft the Political Report for the next EC meeting on 13-15 March 2015.

Documents:

12.1 General Assembly roadmap (time scheduled) *(for approval)*

12.2 General Assembly draft agenda *(for approval)*

13. Miscellaneous

Moderator: Moataz El Fegjery

a. World Forum

Isaias Barreñada asked for an update on the EMHRN's role at the World Forum to be held in Marrakech by the end of November 2014. Michel Tubiana informed that the EMHRN would organize a workshop on discrimination and minorities during the World Forum, and that he would attend the opening ceremony of the Forum. He was however not convinced that the Forum would secure the funding for the 5000 participants. He also noted that the AMDH is under attack from the authorities in Morocco, and the EMHRN should see how this situation evolves as holding a World Forum under these circumstances is contradictory, he said. Marc Schade-Poulsen informed that the World Forum is the political way to promote Morocco in Africa; however it can also be a way to discuss the situation in Morocco. It was left to be seen whether AMDH would be allowed to participate in the three workshops they registered for. Finally, Isaias Barreñada said that if the EMHRN is organising a workshop on discrimination and minorities, the Network should inform its partners in the Western Sahara about it.



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

b. EC and Quartet meetings

Decisions:

- The next EC meeting will take place on 13-15 March 2015 in Tunis
- The next Quartet meeting will take place on 23 February 2015.