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RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK BARCELONA, DECEMBER 11-14, 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Day 1, December 11 (Thursday)	3
Opening session at the IEMED	3
Conference-round table	5
The situation of human rights in Catalonia	5
The human rights situation in the Arab World	5
Human rights in the Barcelona Process: From the Barcelona Declaration to the Union for the Mediterranean.....	6
Day 2, December 12 (Friday)	8
Welcome, adoption of the meeting Agenda and ratification of the minutes from the last General Assembly.....	8
Presentation of the reports.....	8
Political Report.....	8
Activity Report.....	9
Financial Report.....	10
Discussion of the reports.....	11
Presentation of the new members and vote on the reports	14
Election of the Assembly Bureau, Chair Persons, Vote counters and Declaration Committee Assembly Bureau	16
Presentation of the Work program and introduction to the workshops	17
Workshops	18
Justice workshop	18
Migration and Refugees workshop	20
Gender workshop	22
Day 3, December 13 (Saturday)	24
Workshops	24
Human rights Education	24
Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) workshop.....	28
Freedom of Association workshop.....	33
Presentation and discussion of the concept paper on working groups.....	35
Presentation of the candidates for the Executive Committee	37
Discussion and adoption of the Statutes.....	38
Announcement of the election results.....	39
Day 4, December 14 (Sunday)	39
Reports from the workshops	39
Adoption of the Work program and the budget.....	39
Adoption of the General Assembly Declaration	40

Day 1, December 11 (Thursday)

Opening session at the IEMED

Chair: Eva Norström, Vice President, EMHRN

- Senén Florensa, General Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED)
- Xavier Badia, Catalan Office for the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights
- David Minoves, General Director of Cooperation Development and Humanitarian Aid, Barcelona City Council
- Manel Vila, Director of International Cooperation and Solidarity, Barcelona City Council
- Kamel Jendoubi, President of the EMHRN

Senén Florensa, General Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED), opened the meeting on December 11 by giving a warm welcome to all the participants and thanking them for their presence. Eva Norström, Vice President of the EMHRN, thanked the Catalan government, the City Council, the Catalan Office for the Promotion of Peace and Human rights, Danida and Sida for their support. Ms Norström also acknowledged the support of the IEMED, which was allowing the EMHRN General Assembly (GA) to meet on its premises.

Ms Norström welcomed all the EMHRN members and, referring to the civil rights movement in the US and the recent election of Barack Obama as President of the United States, insisted on the need to believe that the actions of civil society could make a difference. Xavier Badia of the Catalan Office for Promotion of Peace and Human Rights pointed out that this meeting brought together people who strongly believed that human rights values and principles should be defended on a daily basis. This conviction guided the entire EMHRN GA.

Xavier Badia, Catalan Office for Promotion of Peace and Human Rights, underlined that the 8th EMHRN GA took place as the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was being celebrated. He said the UDHR represented a real roadmap for civil society by setting guidelines. The president of the Catalan Office for Promotion of Peace and Human Rights acknowledged that, thanks to their joined efforts, the EMHRN and the Catalan administrations had gained in efficiency. Manel Vila, Director of International Cooperation and Solidarity, Barcelona City Council, thanked the institutions which had all shown their willingness to promote democracy and to gain in-depth knowledge of human rights issues in the Euro-Med region.

David Minoves, General Director of Cooperation Development and Humanitarian Aid, Barcelona City Council, made it clear that the Euro-Med partnership was a priority for the Catalan government and their representatives for humanitarian action. He stressed Catalonia's strong Mediterranean character and said that the departments of the Catalan government intended to create links rather than shut borders. The existence of the network and the convening of the GA allowed for the Mediterranean to be a meeting point between people who share common ideals and struggles. He said this GA was the perfect opportunity to provide tools for exchange and dialogue, for the independence and the involvement of civil society.

Mr Minoves insisted that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation should not just be about trade and the reinforcement of security. Putting aside progress in the field of human rights was not a responsible attitude as there could be no sustainable, genuine alleviation of poverty and inequality without taking into account the human rights dimension. He argued that human development required the fulfilment of some minimal conditions – such as the existence of independent and free actors and a minimum standard of living. Human rights had to be part and parcel of any cooperation and development policy: adopting a different approach would boil down to supporting an anachronistic development policy which might contribute to economic development but would neglect human development. It was therefore necessary to link human rights to discussions on development and to share experiences in order for cooperation to bear its fruits. The Barcelona Process should remain a reference point for the promotion of dialogue and the adoption of a better strategy for the development of the Mediterranean.

Senén Florensa, General Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED) underlined that this GA tackled very important issues on which the Barcelona Process relies. He argued that, from the outset, the Barcelona Process had led to the modernization of institutions in the Euro-Med

region through the review of many structures in the field of education, economics and trade. During the last year, great attention had been paid to this important Mediterranean project: many hopes had been created, but many frustrations had come to the surface at the same time. The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), in its final form, represented an attempt to fulfil all these expectations. As it appeared from the Paris declaration, human rights were still at the very core of the UFM. Still, there was a real risk that the project might take another direction and that it would only focus on economic matters. Mr Florensa insisted that civil society organizations had to state very clearly that the transformation of the Mediterranean could not be considered a purely intergovernmental exercise. In fact, partnership between civil society and government had been the principle that guided the launching of the Barcelona Process in 1995.

Kamel Jendoubi, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, talked about the evolution of the Barcelona Process and its inclusion in the Union for the Mediterranean. In 1995, more than 1,000 people took part in the international conference that marked the inauguration of the Barcelona Process, including heads of states, civil servants and NGOs. A shadow conference on the Barcelona Process took place at the same time. Mr Jendoubi stressed that the situation was now quite different: when he took part in the Paris summit as an observer, he was disappointed that only heads of states and representatives from the European Commission had been invited to take part in the debate. If a comparison were to be drawn, it was quite obvious that, in Barcelona, there had been a sincere willingness to take civil society into consideration, whereas that had certainly not been the case in Paris. The Paris conference enjoyed wide media coverage and brought together 43 heads of state and government. Only three countries mentioned human rights: the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Cyprus. No other heads of state or government made a single mention of human rights in their speeches. The issue of human rights was clearly not on the agenda.

The President of the EMHRN insisted that the UFM should be used as a regional framework which would create room for political debate. He did believe that the UFM could have an added value compared to the Barcelona process. However, civil society organizations should engage in advocacy work so that the debate within the UFM would not be merely focused on economic issues and tackle structural reforms. The discussions should indeed take place at the highest possible level, and the Union for the Mediterranean was contributing to this, but the EMHRN's advocacy work should focus on the preservation of the spirit of Barcelona, i.e. on bringing together people, associating and taking civil society into consideration. Another argument in favour of the final draft of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) lay in the institutional rebalancing between the EU and southern countries that it implied: the final draft of the UFM indeed enhanced co-ownership of the initiative by establishing a co-presidency. The UFM project as it was presented at the 13 July summit gave the co-presidency a word in all decisions and initiatives of the UFM. The EMHRN in general did not oppose the idea of a co-presidency for the Union for the Mediterranean, but the signals the Network had received up to that point, with Egypt set to take on this role for a period of two years, were extremely negative. There was no genuine willingness from Egypt to lead reform efforts: this might bring the Barcelona Process to a stalemate. The Network was thus very concerned about the direction taken by the Union for the Mediterranean: it was vital today that the partner states adopt reforms. These countries had to experience democracy and fight corruption through structural reforms, Mr Jendoubi argued. Unfortunately, the actual framework of the UFM did not seem to contribute to this. Kamel Jendoubi therefore insisted on the need to gather and follow the Barcelona Process so that its initial spirit might be revived. The EMHRN had to stay alert and pay close attention to future developments.

Conference-round table

- Dr. Jaume Saura, President of the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia (IDHC), Professor of International Public Law, University of Barcelona: The situation of human rights in Catalonia
- Ms Randa Siniora, Director General, Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights and board member of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS): The human rights situation in the Arab World.
- Mr Khémaïs Chamhari, President of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), Nüremberg Human Rights Prize Winner, Expert Consultant: Human rights in the Barcelona Process, from the Barcelona Declaration to the Union for the Mediterranean.

The situation of human rights in Catalonia

Dr. Jaume Saura, President of the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia (IDHC), Professor of International Public Law, University of Barcelona

Dr. Jaume Saura made a short presentation of the human rights situation in Catalonia. Dr. Saura made it clear that Catalonia was part of a democratic country respecting the rule of law and stressed citizens could, among others, have access to public education and justice. He stressed the Catalan administration had made considerable achievements with the recent adoption of an action plan on human rights, the promotion of human rights being now part and parcel of the Catalonian development and cooperation policy. However, Dr. Saura argued the human rights situation in Catalonia was far from being ideal.

Dr Saura argued the Catalonian anti-terrorist legislation was breaching international law: he explained individuals suspected of terrorism could not freely choose their lawyers and saw their privacy invaded as their names could be published in the press. These suspected individuals could remain up to 30 days in detention without being able to communicate with the outside world. Dr. Saura insisted this legislation increased the risks of torture: hundreds of torture cases had been documented and the UN Committee on torture had recently condemned Spain. He explained a national mechanism for the protection against torture had been adopted: the mediator of the Catalonian government would be in charge of implementing it at regional level.

He insisted there was a strong discrimination against immigrants and foreigners detaining long-term residence permits as they could not always enforce their rights. Dr Saura explained undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers were regarded as criminals and put into detention centres. Mr Saura argued the Catalonian asylum policy was far too restrictive as rejected asylum seekers were sent back to their homeland through countries where they may be persecuted.

Mr Saura explained freedom of expression was not always respected as a Spanish newspaper recently underwent sanctions for having published a cartoon disapproved of by the authorities. The right to demonstration can also be subject to arbitrary restrictions and reaction from the police forces is sometimes excessive. Mr Saura stressed gender mainstreaming should be promoted in Catalonia. An important legislation promoting gender mainstreaming and condemning domestic violence was recently adopted (eighty women die every year due to domestic violence in Spain).

The human rights situation in the Arab World

Ms Randa Siniora, Director General, Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights Board and board member of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

Ms Randa Siniora, a former EC member of the EMHRN, was here speaking in behalf of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). She presented the results of a report published by the CIHRS on human rights in 12 countries of the Euro-Med region. The report analyses the impact of the Arab states' policies in relation to the EU & UN mechanisms. It also looks at the Arab league and its role in the region.

The CIHRS report addresses human rights violations: it does not go into details but tries to give an overview of the situation and covers the period from September 07 to October 08. This report clearly shows how the Arab countries now "export" their anti-reform policies to the international forums.

A case in point is North African countries role in the weakening of the UN mechanisms on human rights. The report categorises the 12 countries according to their overall attitude toward reforms. While some countries in the Euro-Med region resist the implementation of any reform (Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt), others are somehow more open to reforms (Morocco, Bahrain).

However, according to the CIHRS report, all these countries have the same patterns of human rights violations. Among the most important violations is the increase of attacks against reformists and human rights defenders. Repression of social movement, media suppression and restrictions to freedom of expression are also very common. Books and foreign publications are also being prohibited. Cartoonists can face trials and freedom of expression is increasingly under attack under the pretext of preserving religious sensibilities. The state of emergency is still enforced in several countries of the region and police torture often goes unpunished (and when the authors of torture are condemned, their sentences are rarely enforced). There are serious violations to freedom of religion and lingering armed conflicts severely affect the region.

Ms Siniora argued the Arab League had played a destructive role in relation to human rights and democracy in the region. The Arab League subtly approved of the coup d'état in Mauritania and recently drafted a document to limit Satellite diffusion in the region.

She also gave evidence that Arab countries have undermined UN reforms: Egypt leads the African group, a group which has strongly contributed to the weakening of the Human Rights Council. Countries like Algeria and Morocco have also played a negative role and hindered the participation of civil society organisations at UN level.

Human rights in the Barcelona Process: From the Barcelona Declaration to the Union for the Mediterranean

Mr Khémaïs Chammari, President of the Tunisian Human Rights League, Nuremberg Human Rights Prize Winner, Expert Consultant

Mr Chammari illustrated the human rights situation in the Euro-Med region by providing some concrete examples. Tunisian authorities recently prevented the Tunisian League of Human rights (LTDH) from holding a meeting and inviting foreign delegates. According to Mr Chammari, the lack of reaction of the European Commission delegation was quite symptomatic of the powerlessness of the European delegations in the Arab states.

To Mr Chammari, the ongoing trial of the unions from the Gafsa region (Tunisia) was also quite symptomatic of the human rights situation in the region: the minimum requirements ensuring the fairness of the debate were not respected and charges were brought against amongst other Cherbib Mouhieddine, President of the Tunisian Federation for a Two-Banks Citizenship (FTCR) although he has never set foot in Gafsa. As the entire world is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UNDHR, those two events shed some light on the situation of human rights in the Euro-Med region.

He insisted that, from the outset, the EMHRN had regarded the Barcelona Process as a relevant framework for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Euro-Med region. Mr Chammari stressed that this did not mean the network fully agreed with the Barcelona partnership. It was indeed very clear that the creation of a free-trade zone was the priority of this partnership. The EMHRN therefore insisted that Euro-Med cooperation should not just be about trade and the reinforcement of security and called attention upon the second article of the Association agreements, which mentioned the need to promote human rights in the region. However, the article 2 contained not a single implementation mechanism and amounted to a mere declaration of principles.

Mr Chammari insisted some progresses had been made thanks to the implication of the civil society, which played a decisive role in the promotion of human rights in the Euro-Med region at several levels. The Barcelona declaration was for example originally very weak on gender mainstreaming. Thanks to the pressures exerted by civil society and despite the lack of political will, gender mainstreaming is now promoted through the Istanbul Action Plan.

The lobbying work of the EMHRN, combined with other NGOs and local organizations, was essential. The launching of a working group on Gender Mainstreaming and on the Asylum and Refugees issue by the EMHRN was especially relevant. In this regard, Mr Chammari paid tribute to the working teams

of the network for their achievements and especially to the Brussels antenna which had successfully created and sustained a network with other NGOs, the European Parliament and European civil servants.

Mr Chammari insisted nonetheless that more work still had to be carried out in order to ensure the promotion of human rights in the best possible conditions. The lack of communication and transparency around the Euro-Med partnership was considered as a significant pitfall as very few people grasp the subtleties of those highly complicated mechanisms. There have been several successive layers: from the Barcelona Process and the Association Agreements – based on a bilateral approach, to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the European Instrument on Neighbourhood and Partnership (EINP) and the Euro-Med partnership, based on a multilateral approach.

The idea of a political framework between the EU and some southern states is now gaining ground among officials. Mr Chammari deplored the EU had just decided to upgrade its relations with Israel despite the blatant human rights violations committed by this country.

Mr Chammari pointed out the uncertainties surrounding the Union for the Mediterranean, illustrating the complexity of the Euro-Med partnership mechanisms and the oppositions encountered at the different levels of the implementation process. According to Mr Chammari, the UFM's true motivation was to develop intergovernmental relations, and not to integrate civil society into the decision-making process. Mr Chammari then advocated for the striking of a new balance so that the actors coming from civil society get a better chance to have their say on the decisions adopted within the framework of the UFM. Some may have argued the UFM would facilitate the launching of coordinated projects on trade and environment while preserving the Barcelona Process original spirit: Mr Chammari said he shared Mr Jendoubi's fear that the Egyptian co-presidency would ruin those hopes.

Mr Chammari insisted on the relevance of the EMHRN guideline adopted as early as 1997 and which advocates for the launching of partnerships between human rights organisations in the Euro-Med region and UN human rights conventional and unconventional mechanisms. He insisted the EMHRN should also be careful to maintain and foster dialogue between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council – so that the Human rights subcommittee and associations councils might get a chance to function according to plans.

Mr Chammari then insisted on the need to further associate regional organisations and local actors to the EMHRN achievements. The EMHRN should ask for more relevant information from local actors on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and strive to get working groups further involved in the preparation of the Euro-Med partnership meetings. He stressed a critical and informed analysis of the implementation of the ENP should be released by those working groups before those meetings.

Day 2, December 12 (Friday)

Welcome, adoption of the meeting Agenda¹ and ratification of the minutes from the last General Assembly².

Chair : Kamel Jendoubi, President of the EMHRN

The General Assembly agenda and the minutes from the last General Assembly were approved by all the participants. It was stressed that the urge of the situation in Tunisia with the ongoing Gafsa trial (already mentioned by Mr Khémaïs Chammari during the Conference round-table) should be referred to in the General Assembly final resolution.

Presentation of the reports

Chair: Colm Regan, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World

Political Report³

Kamel Jendoubi presented the EMHRN political report:

The EMHRN political report underlines the lack of political leadership of the European Union in the Euro- Med Region and especially the absence of a sincere willingness to promote human rights in the region. This ambivalence of the EU policy is all the more striking as the situation of human rights in the Euro-Med region has steadily deteriorated, a case in point being the diminishing independence of the judiciary systems in the region.

The EMHRN political report also puts to the foreground the violations of the rights of the Palestinians by the state of Israel and the inter-Palestinian battles.

All this happening in a context where the very notion of the universality of human rights is subject to many attacks as extremism and radicalism are gaining ground in the Euro-Med region. Reformist movements are losing ground and left powerless as the organizations which strive to promote democracy and peace in the region are not sufficiently supported by EU institutions and policies.

Mr Jendoubi regretted that human rights promotion was neglected as Euro-Mediterranean partnerships were increasingly focused on economic and security oriented policies. The recent evolution of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) illustrates the point as it merely defined blurry political criteria for the promotion of human rights in the Euro-Med region. The EMHRN President insisted on the need to ask UFM member states to respect clear benchmarks and a precise calendar. Mr Jendoubi insisted the UFM implementation and the recent evolutions of the Euro-Mediterranean partnerships represented the perfect opportunity for the EMHRN to refine its strategic orientations.

The EMHRN President reminded the last EMHRN General Assembly had set up an action plan focusing on developing the network's actions towards civil society. He reminded the EMHRN aimed at becoming amongst other a pool of expertise for its members. In 10 years' time, from 1997 to 2007, the EMHRN had launched many partnerships between northern and southern NGOs. Mr Jendoubi insisted the goal-oriented approach and the support of the EMHRF were vital to the improvement of the EMHRN. The strong involvement of the EMHRN secretariat was also a fundamental asset for the network and its members.

Yet, the Network needs to move forward and improve its internal and external communication as well as refine its strategies and objectives:

- It was stressed that the members were the cornerstone of the Network activities and that better communication was needed between the members, the executive committee and the secretariat. The EMHRN members had not been active enough and this reluctance may find its cause in the complexity of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership mechanisms. The Network could initiate follow-up groups, using the template of the EU-Moroccan follow-up group and

thus foster understanding of Euro-Mediterranean partnership mechanisms among its members.

- The working groups should also put the emphasis on actions and dialogue at governmental level in order to gain influence on the adoption of local reforms in the Euro-Med region. The political impact of the EMHRN activities is still limited. The EMHRN should work on advocacy strategies mobilizing limited resources, ensuring a strong visibility and questioning the direction taken by the European Neighbourhood Policy.
- The EMHRN had recently made some recruitment mistakes and had appealed to some non-reliable experts. Several members also complained about the quality of the Arabic translation of some EMHRN reports.
- The EMHRN should adopt a pro-active recruitment policy. Although the network should be careful not to expand too much and thus lose in efficiency, it should rationalize its activities in order to be able to recruit more members.
- The EMHRN should also focus on fund-raising activities and diversify its funding sources.
- The Network should also strengthen its partnerships with international organizations at the UN level and the Arab League.
- The EMHRN should increase its collaboration with specialized research centres in universities across the Euro-Med region. It would indeed be a very efficient means to strengthen the expertise of the Network.
- The EMHRN should adopt and promote a systemic transversal approach in its communication and advocacy strategies so as to reach an ever-larger public both in the North and in the South.
- Kamel Jendoubi paid tribute to the members of the executive committee who would not renew their mandate: Birgit Lindsnæs, Colm Regan, Eva Norström, Iain Byrne, Maria De Donato, Nina Atallah, Nizam Assaf, Rabéa Naciri. He stressed their personal qualities and their strong involvement in the activities of the EMHRN. Colm Regan then paid tribute to Mr Jendoubi's and Ms Norström's respective qualities as president and vice-president of the network.

Activity Report⁴

The EMHRN Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, estimated around 75% of the goals set at the last EMHRN General Assembly (Madrid, 2006) had been attained. Since 2006, the EMHRN had succeeded in raising more funds, benefited from larger financial means and the secretariat team had been extended.

Mr Schade-Poulsen explained the EMHRN activities were divided into two programs, implemented through the EMHRN six working groups. The EMHRN six working groups now have approximately 100 members altogether.

Mr. Schade-Poulsen went further into details, underlining the achievements of the six working groups:

- Freedom of Association: the publication of two reports and the launching of lobbying activities both in Egypt and in Jordan and the progressive extension of the scope of the working group activities to other countries.
- Justice: the publication of comprehensive reports on the independence of the judiciary in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia and the holding of a regional conference in Cairo in 2009.
- Gender mainstreaming: lobbying activities to enhance the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan on Gender mainstreaming and the formulation of the Gender Mainstreaming Tool kit (GMTK)

- Human rights education: the publication of a report and a resource paper, the organisation of summer schools in the Euro-Med region.
- Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians: the release of reports on the situation on the scene and intense lobbying activities at EU level.
- Migration and Refugees workshop: the elaboration of an alert mechanism on solidarity (MIAMI) and the publication of a political report on the migrants and asylum seekers' situation in the Euro-Med region.

The EMHRN has also been very active in its communication strategy with the recruitment of a new communication officer in Copenhagen, the launching of a new website, the opening of an antenna in Egypt and the creation of a new Solidarity project in Paris.

The Network also proposes training activities to its members in order to promote gender mainstreaming among the member organizations. The Network has also drafted and provided its members with some relevant materials on the European Neighbourhood Policy and is currently working on materials to be used for awareness-raising campaigns.

The EMHRN has decided to focus on its lobbying activities (mainly towards the European Commission and the European Parliament). Mr Schade-Poulsen stressed networking was also among the first priorities of the EMHRN. The European Commission now pays closer attention to the EMHRN recommendations – although this is not necessarily followed by effect as some of the network's recommendations are clearly not taken into account in the drafting of the EU policies.

Mr. Schade-Poulsen insisted on the importance of the EMHRN partnerships with other NGOs – such as the EMHRF, the Euro-Med Platform, the Human rights and Democracy Network (HRDN). He thanked the Executive Committee for its support.

Financial Report⁵

Poul Collemorten, Head of the EMHRN Administration, made a short description of the financial report. Marc Schade-Poulsen then presented the upcoming activities of the EMHRN. He put the stress on the fast-growing expansion of the EMHRN activities. Whereas the network had a 458 000 Euros budget in 2001, this figure has now reached 1.9 million.

Despite this growing budget, the EMHRN could not implement all its projects. Almost half of those resources are allocated to the working groups. 6% are dedicated to the EMHRN communication activities, and the resources were not sufficient to recruit a new communication officer in Brussels. All in all, 20% of the EMHRN resources are dedicated to the functioning of the executive organs of the network. This figure might seem high, but the activities of the executive organs are indeed vital to the functioning of the network. The organisation of the EMHRN General assembly is costly, but it is essential to the enhancement of the EMHRN strategy. The Network has expanded its administrative expenses: the Network offices are no longer part of the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) premises and the EMHRN now has its own premises. This figure shall go down to 7% in the near future. All in all, the results - although inferior to those expected at the last GA - are good.

Discussion of the reports

Chairs: Eva Norström, SWERA, vice-President of the EMHRN
Wadih Al Asmar, SOLIDA, member of the executive committee

Comments and suggestions were put forward by participants and subsequently responded to by members of the executive committee.

The comments of the participants focused on three main subjects:

1. The strategy of the EMHRN as it appears in the political and in the activity report
 - Several participants stressed the relevance of those reports which rightly underlined the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Euro-Med Region.
 - They also insisted that the nature of intergovernmental relations in the region went hand in hand with the diminishing influence of civil society organisations on the decision-making process.
 - They expressed their disappointment concerning the attitude of the EU and its lack of willingness to act for the promotion of human rights in the Euro-Med region.
 - Many participants expressed their concern as the Euro-Mediterranean partnership mechanisms were all too often used to enforce ever stricter immigration and asylum policies. In the Euro-Med region, the fight against terrorism is also frequently used as an excuse not to respect the rule of law and human rights.

Recommendations from the participants:

- Civil society organizations only have limited resources. On the contrary, Government-Operated Non-Governmental Organisations (GONGO's) benefit from substantial financial means. The EMHRN should pay closer attention to the GONGO issue.
- The EMHRN should also pay closer attention to the follow-up of its activities and evaluate their concrete implications on a more regular basis.
- Civil society is not encouraged to work further and promote human rights when states openly violating human rights, such as Israel, are considered as dialogue partners by the EU. The EMHRN political report should have addressed this issue.
- The political report evokes the emergence of new strategic actors in the Euro-Med region, such as Iran, China and Russia. The EMHRN could ask for an exploratory report on the influence of those countries on the human rights policies in the Euro-Med region.

2. The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)

The implementation of the UFM has raised many doubts among the participants:

- It is still unclear what the precise role and attributions of the UFM General Secretary would be.
- The risk is high that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation mechanisms would now be discussed at intergovernmental level as these would take place every two years according to the UFM project as it was presented at the 13 July summit.

- The Arab League has apparently been granted membership status, but it has long been unclear whether the Arab League would be granted observer or membership status.
- The European Commission now has to ask for approval to both the Presidency and the co-Presidency of the UFM before giving its approval to any project dealing with the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Several participants have stressed that the end of the French presidency of the European Union (in December 2008) would open an era of uncertainty as the exact views of the Czech presidency (January-July 2009) towards the UFM are still unclear.

Recommendations from the participants:

- Some insisted on the need to pay closer attention to the actual economic crisis and focus more on the defence and promotion of the social and economic rights of migrants and refugees. Immigrants and refugees are usually the first victims of economic downturns. Some insisted on the need to follow-up the implementation of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. The EMHRN should not hesitate and voice out its strong disapproval of this EU policy.
- The strengthening of the EMHRN partnerships with other NGOs is also essential to the promotion of human rights in the Euro-Med region.
- It was suggested the EMHRN should extend its collaboration with Eastern European countries as they could bring a refreshing point of view on Euro-Med partnerships.
- The timing of the European Parliament elections (June 2009) and the subsequent renewal of the EU commissaries makes it especially rewarding for the EMHRN to strengthen its lobbying activities now.
- The EMHRN Executive Committee should contact EU officials as soon as possible in order to get a clearer picture of the UFM goals and institutional functioning.

The EMHRN executive committee indicated that the EU would indeed be in a transition period for the next six months. The Swedish presidency of the EU (July-December 2009) should nonetheless clarify the situation and would be a decisive period for the lobbying activities of the EMHRN.

It was acknowledged that the creation of the UFM might lead the EMHRN to redefine its identity. The concept of Euro-Mediterranean partnership itself has recently come under strain: it is essential for the Network to think about a redefinition of its strategy.

It was also stressed that, at the launching of the Barcelona Process, the objectives were clear enough: the Euro-Med partnership was based on Association Agreements and bilateral mechanisms. The participants insisted that a whole new framework had been launched with the UFM: bilateral agreements are now dissociated from multilateral actions. Should the Network focus on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) or extend its actions to other mechanisms and international organisations? Should the EMHRN launch partnerships with other international organisations than the European Union and seek support from those?

- Others insisted on the need to strengthen the political impact of the decisions of the EMHRN and enhance dialogue with regional governments. They stressed a distinction had to be made between the governments with which dialogue was possible (although this dialogue did not always deliver concrete results) as Lebanon and those with whom dialogue was very difficult (Syria, Libya, Egypt).
- Several participants stressed the EMHRN should focus on the respect of Human Rights Conventions as many states ratify them without abiding by them. This strategy would be all the more relevant as the UN human rights mechanisms have recently come under

strong attacks from some Arab states, which resulted in the nomination of controversial experts. The forthcoming elections within the UN Human Rights Committees would be the ideal opportunity to try and enforce a lobbying policy towards the EU to preserve the independence of those UN monitoring mechanisms.

3. Communication between members:

- Several participants appraised the achievements of the EMHRN and the relevance of its publications. They nonetheless deplored the deficient strategic approach to media coverage around those publications and researches.
- The migration working group has for example published a comprehensive report on migration issues approximately a year ago, but this publication has remained mainly unnoticed. These participants suggested the network should refine its communication strategy.

It was answered that the executive committee (EC) was well aware of this lack of visibility and would welcome any comments and suggestions from the participants.

The EC insisted on the need for the working groups to pay more attention to the working methods and approaches in the Euro-Med countries. Similarly, the working groups' members should also take an active part in the diffusion of the working groups' publications and relay it to their local and national communities. The different working groups could for example seek inspiration in the alert mechanism put in place by the Migration and Asylum working group.

Recommendations from the participants:

- Several participants insisted on the need to rethink the consultation methods between the member organizations. Sustaining a network implies more than a succession of names: concrete links have to be developed at all times between the members.
- The Network could also further encourage the formation of networks at national level, as it has done in Morocco. The EMHRN has to find a balance between strengthening synergies between the working groups and fostering the initiatives of the individual members.
- The Network is also fundamental to the overcoming of its members' internal divisions.
- There are two different categories of members: on the one hand the professionals (research institutes, training centres) benefiting from a high degree of expertise. On the other human rights activists. This balance between professionals and activists is both an asset and a drawback for the EMHRN. Those two dimensions have to be promoted at the very same time. The activists being outnumbered by the professionals, it was suggested the EMHRN should recruit more human rights activists among its members to re-strike the balance.

It was answered this was precisely part of the EMHRN new pro-active recruitment strategy.

Presentation of the new members and vote on the reports

Chair: Rabéa Naciri, ADFM, member of the Executive Committee

Presentation of the GA new members

Regular members:

1. Barbara Harrell-Bond, AMERA, UK/Egypt

Ms Harrell-Bond is a board member of AMERA, an organization which brings support to refugee legal aid organisations in Egypt and in Uganda. AMERA would very much like to extend the scope of its activities to Middle East organisations throughout Africa.

2. Radwan Ziadeh, Damascus Centre for Human Rights , Syria

The Damascus Centre for Human Rights was created in 2005: this association is not registered and issues a monthly newsletter on human rights violations in Syria. The organisation has also published several comprehensive reports.

3. Christina Kahili, Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, Cyprus

The main objective of the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies is the promotion of human rights, and more specifically women's rights, in the Euro-Med region. Ms Kahili stressed she was convinced of the benefits of the EMHRN networking and awareness-raising campaigns.

4. Birgitta Danielsson, Kvinna til Kvinna (From Woman to Woman), Sweden

A women's organization, Kvinna til Kvinna is acting as a foundation and is mainly known for its activities in the Balkans. The organisation has offices both in Amman and in Jerusalem and already took part in several EMHRN working groups meetings.

Rabéa Naciri explained the proposition to integrate those four organizations into the Network was part of the EMHRN new pro-active recruitment strategy. Parity is respected as there are two southern and two northern organisations, two women's and two men's.

All four organisations were accepted as members according to the following votes:

	For	Against	Abst
AMERA, UK and Egypt	28	0	0
Damascus Centre for Human Rights Studies, Syria	31	0	0
Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, Cyprus	30	0	0
Kvinna til Kvinna (From Woman to Woman), Sweden	30	0	1

Individual members (proposed by the EC)

Madjid Benchikh, law professor, Algeria

Mr Benchikh explained he had first been an individual member of the Network, and then became a regular member through his then organisation, the International Committee for Peace and Human rights. As this committee was dissolved, his membership was cancelled. Still active in the promotion of human rights, Mr Benchikh now wishes to become an individual member.

Mr Benchikh candidature as individual member was adopted with the following votes:

	For	Against	Abst
Mr Madjid Benchikh	28	0	0

Membership cancellations:

Regular members:

The membership of seven organizations was proposed for cancellation:

- Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK, United Kingdom
- International Committee for Peace in Algeria, regional
- Danish United Nation Association, Denmark
- Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights, Lebanon
- International Association for the Protection of Human Rights, Cyprus
- Maghreb Youth, Belgium
- Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, Jordan

Following inquiries among the participants, Marc Schade-Poulsen explained that 9 letters had originally been sent to those different organisations. Two organisations expressed their wish to go on working with the EMHRN. The others answered either that they no longer existed or wished they had the capacity to be members of the Network. One could not be found and the remaining one did not reply to the EMHRN's letters.

All seven organisations were excluded from the EMHRN with the following votes:

	For	Against	Abst
Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK, United Kingdom	20	1	3
International Committee for Peace in Algeria, regional	26	0	1
Danish United Nations Association, Denmark	29	0	0
Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights, Lebanon	24	1	4
International Association for the Protection of Human Rights, Cyprus	26	1	1
Maghreb Youth, Belgium	26	1	1
Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, Jordan	24	1	1

Resignation:

The Greek Helsinki Monitor cancelled its membership of the EMHRN.

Membership cancellations of associate members:

The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF) went bankrupt in 2007 and the cancellation of its membership was accepted by unanimous vote.

	For	Against	Abst
International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (ceased its activities in 2007)	27	0	0

Membership cancellation of individual members:

The EC recommended the cancellation of the membership of Mr Aktham Naisse, individual member. Mr Jendoubi explained this decision as Mr Naisse used to be part of the network as President of the Centre for Democratic Freedoms (CDF, Syria). He had been imprisoned and the EMHRN decided to grant him individual membership in order to defend him better. The CDF then became divided,

following strong internal conflicts, the EC decided to support the faction led by Mr Saoud. Mr Naisse then launched a denigration campaign against the EMHRN.

Mr Naisse radiation was adopted according to the following votes:

	For	Against	Abst
Mr Akhtam Naisse	23	2	1

Vote on the reports:

The political report, the activity report and the financial report were accepted by unanimous vote:

	For	Against	Abst
Political report	28	0	0
Activity report	29	0	0
Financial report	30	0	0

Election of the Assembly Bureau, Chair Persons, Vote counters and Declaration Committee Assembly Bureau

Chair: Rabéa Naciri, ADFM, member of the EC

Chair Persons

The chair persons of the GA until the election of the new EC were (acclamation without vote):

- Khadija Chérif, Tunisia
- Radwan Ziadeh, Syria
- Eva Norström, Sweden
- Stephan Lutgenaü, Austria

Vote counters

Lamia Louise Chehabi and Anna Bozzo were elected as vote counters. Marc Schade-Poulsen was automatically designated.

Declaration Committee Assembly Bureau

The following members of the editing committee of the final declaration were elected (acclamation without vote):

- Michel Tubiana
- Khémaïs Chammari
- Anitta Kynsiletho

Presentation of the Work program and introduction to the workshops

Chair: Maria De Donato, Italian Refugee Council (CIR)
Speakers: Marc Schade-Poulsen, Executive Director EMHRN
Marit Flø Jørgensen, Program Director

Marc Schade-Poulsen made a short presentation of the main working areas until 2010 and the next General Assembly and invited the participants to give their feedbacks after the workshops:

- Mr Schade-Poulsen launched a debate on the possible collaboration of the EMHRN with other institutions and organisations than the EU, such as the United Nations and the Arab League. This would require an amendment of the EMHRN statutes.
- The Executive Director of the EMHRN deplored the deterioration of the Human rights situation in the Euro-Med region and the EU's lack of political leadership
- The EMHRN decided to focus on short term actions and to promote the integration of younger members in the Network in order to increase its added value.
- The EMHRN should also put the emphasis on the defence of socio-economic rights in the region, with the prospective setting-up of a new working group.
- The Network would also recruit a new coordinator for the creation of a Solidarity project.
- The Network would strengthen its communication and media work in the coming years with the opening of a media office in Cairo, a new website and hopefully the appointment of a media person in Brussels.
- The EMHRN will go on training its members on ENP, EU mechanisms and Gender issues.
- The EMHRN Brussels office will strengthen its work towards EU, the ENP and the Euro-Mediterranean partnerships.
- Partnerships will be further developed, especially with the Euro-Med platform and the EMHRF.

The core work of the EMHRN would still consist of networking and intervening in the working groups areas. The Executive Director of the EMHRN detailed the achievements of those working groups:

Human Rights and Democratisation:

- **Freedom of Association**
The working group on Liberty of Association has organised several meetings on freedom of association in the region at regular intervals and continued the publication of a newsletter. New events are being organised every year, according to the actual situation in the different countries.
- **Justice**
The Justice working group has been dedicating itself to the independence of the judiciary in the region, especially in Algeria and Egypt – while pursuing its activities in Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. The working group intends to go on with its initiatives for the creation of an association of Arab magistrates; a working group meeting is taking place next month in Egypt in order to discuss this point. The Justice working group is also investigating the influence of the fight against terrorism on the judiciary systems of the region.

- **Women's Rights**
The working group on Gender mainstreaming is pushing for a pro-active attitude from its members. It is actually focusing on the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan, and this until 2009. The EMHRN would be especially active during the Swedish presidency of the UE (July-December 2009). The Gender mainstreaming working group would focus on supporting the local organisations advocating for the complete implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the lift of reservations.
- **Human Rights Education**
The working group on Human Rights Education would get inspiration from the different reports published and focus its training activities on human rights training through the launching of different debates. Methodological exchanges would be pursued between member organisations. Summer school would still be organised yearly.

The Security of Human Beings:

- **The Middle East Conflict (PIP working group)**
The PIP working group is trying to focus on the situation in Gaza and will try and organize a meeting there in April. The PIP working group will also pursue its lobbying activities towards the European institutions and the implementation of the ENP. The PIP working group has also launched partnerships with different associations in the field and EU organisms.
- **The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers**
The WG on migrants would work further on its alert mechanisms and their implementation.

Marit Flø Jørgensen introduced the workshops and invited the participants to give their feedback. She presented the methodology of both sessions:

1. Presentation of work program and work done
2. In-depth discussion on the themes and identify priorities

Workshops

Justice workshop

EMHRN Coordinator: Fabrice Liebaut

1. Presentation of the Justice working group activities
 1. Past and present activities

Since 2004, the working group on Justice has focused on the independence of the judiciary systems in the Euro-Med region. A first report published in 2004, «Justice in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean», assessed the judiciary systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This report revealed that a common trend to most countries of the region was the total or partial lack of independence of the judiciary.

The activities of the working group rely on the combination of a national and a regional approach.

At national level, the activities of the working group first focused on four countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon. The working group held a seminar in each of these countries to initiate a dialogue between the participants coming from civil society, administrations or the judiciary system (judges, lawyers, prosecutors, etc.), attorney generals, governments, MPs, etc. The working group then drafted national reports on the independence of the judiciary containing detailed recommendations for each of these countries. A follow-up seminar was organised: the participants commented those recommendations and discussed the advocacy strategy and implementation mechanisms to be adopted by civil society organisations.

At regional level, the working group (in addition to the 2004 report on «Justice in the southern and eastern Mediterranean») published yet another report in 2008: «Initiatives for judicial reform in the region Euro-Mediterranean». The working group is also working on the setting-up of judges' networks at regional level, with a regional conference to be held in Cairo in April 2009. The working group on Justice aims at developing into a regional centre of expertise.

2. Upcoming activities

The working group would pursue its activities on the independence of the judiciary in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, publishing more reports and organising follow-up seminars. The working group would also extend the scope of its activities to Algeria and Egypt and focus on the organisation of the regional conference on judges networks and its follow-up.

The working group plans to launch a project on the impact of the fight against terrorism on the judicial systems of the Euro-Med region. The working group would first have to define the project more accurately, to subsequently launch fund-raising campaigns and work on the implementation of the project (see the presentation and discussion below).

3. The working group project on anti-terrorist legislations

Michel Tubiana, Honorary President of the Human Rights League, summed up the working group project on anti-terrorist legislations in the judicial systems of the Euro-Med Region. This project is the direct continuation of the working group activities on the independence of the judiciary. Namely, anti-terrorist legislations exert a direct influence on the functioning of the courts, on the attributions of police forces and on the population of the region. The working group aims at drawing a comprehensive survey of the implications of those legislations.

The effects of anti-terrorist legislations concern both the northern and southern countries of the Euro-Med Region. This issue is also especially relevant as, even if terrorism attacks were to diminish, the stakes are high that anti-terrorist laws would still be enforced. The fight against terrorism is of course legitimate, but this struggle has to be waged without breaching international law and regional standards. There is no official definition of terrorism at international level and the debate on terrorism is inherently controversial. The working group decided to focus on the prevailing standards of anti-terrorist legislation and their mutual influence (notably between northern and southern countries of the Euro-Med Region) in order not to drift into an over-theoretical discussion about the concept of terrorism. The working group would then assess the impact of those anti-terrorist legislations on the courts and on the respect of privacy (CCTV, telephone tapping, etc.).

The working plan outline is the following: 1. planning a regional seminar 2. holding national seminars in three or four countries 3. drafting national reports including recommendations for each country and 5. holding a regional seminar and draft a regional follow-up report.

2. Discussions and recommendations

1. Debate on the independence of the judiciary

Several participants acknowledged the achievements of the working group on justice and insisted on the need to pay more attention to the differences between national legislations in the countries of the Euro-Med region. These participants also stressed the importance to monitor governmental practices as they often paid little respect to legislations aiming at ensuring the independence of the judiciary. A case in point was the total lack of reaction of the Algerian High Council of Magistracy (whose mandate is to guarantee the independence of the judiciary) as the Algerian Ministry of Justice decided to suspend 15 judges. The failing independence of the judiciary in the Euro-Med should be counter-acted by the empowerment of civil society organizations.

The participants also stressed the need for initiating and sustaining networks of judges in the Euro-Med region, but insisted on the necessary collaboration of those networks with other professional networks so as to avoid the pitfall of corporatism. The working group should also explore ways to take

advantage of the EU instruments in the field of justice, such as the Justice and Security subcommittees. The recommendations of the working group should gain in public thanks to these instruments.

2. Debate on anti-terrorist legislations

The fight against terrorism has had an enormous impact on the independence of the judiciary and the political discourse surrounding this issue has raised many concerns. In many countries of the region, the enforcement of those anti-terrorist legislations has resulted into the establishment of shadow judiciary systems. This has paved the way to countless breaches to the different conventions on human rights and international law. The continued enforcement of a state of emergency in some countries and the establishment of lists of terrorist organisations at the international level (EU, UN) may also result in the infringement of international law. What's more, judges managing terrorism cases can face personal threats and themselves become the targets of terrorist acts.

Some participants stressed anti-terrorist legislations were often used by national governments as a means to tighten their control over the whole population. An Algerian legislation has thus recently legalised secret detention under the pretext of combating terrorism. Several participants suggested a special emphasis be placed on the influence of national parliaments on the drafting of those anti-terrorist legislations. The precise role of national intelligence services and the effects of their international cooperation should also be studied more closely.

A participant pointed out the working group should include case stories in its reports to better illustrate the concrete implications of those controversial anti-terrorist legislations. A case in point being the recent conviction of two Tunisians on the charges of plotting one of the "Muhammad caricatures" cartoonist's assassination by Danish justice. Several participants also expressed their wish to see the issue of anti-terrorist legislations and the struggle against terrorism gain in importance within the EMHRN: those anti-terrorist legislations can indeed be detrimental to all freedoms, and not just to the independence of the judiciary.

Migration and Refugees workshop

EMHRN Coordinator: Chadi Sidhom

1. Presentations

1. Pierre Barge, President, European Association for the Defence of Human rights (AEDH)

There was an introduction speech by Pierre Barge, from the European Association of Human Rights. The speech focused on the common European immigration and asylum policy. These European policies are not always apt to safeguard the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. The security-based approach is still too often predominant in the treatment of migratory issues, which eventually contributes to the stigmatization of migrants: the European countries now use biometric techniques and have considerably strengthened the rules for obtaining a visa. Be as it may, these drastic measures cannot guarantee the total closing of the European borders and the systematic selection of the migrants according to utilitarian and mercantilist approaches. The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum has confirmed the general tendency already identified by other European devices such as the directive on return, the readmission agreements or the introduction of the system known as the blue card system. The right to seek asylum is gradually emptied of its content, mainly due to the growing impossibility for asylum seekers to reach European soil.

2. Dr. Barbara Harrell- Bond, Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA)

Barbara Harrell-Bond (AMERA) then spoke on the issue of refugees in the southern countries. Refugees in the South face a lawless situation – a situation where none of their rights can be enforced. Those refugees cannot benefit from any legal framework as the overall majority of the southern countries did not sign the Geneva conventions, and the few who did do not abide by them.

The situation gets even bleaker as the phenomenon of mixed flows (migrants and refugees arriving in those countries in the same flow) makes it especially hard to defend and protect the refugees' statuses and rights. Those refugees from the South are in no position to get a job or to access to the social welfare and sanitary system. This lingering exclusion and its severity require that we define the issue of the protection of the refugees' rights in the southern countries as a top priority and at the very centre of our interventions. Migrants from the southern countries are prey to the same kind of treatment as the refugees.

3. Discussion following the interventions

Following those interventions, several participants underlined the severity of the migrants and refugees' situation as well as the need for an enhanced partnership with the other members of the EMHRN. They also stressed the necessity to make better use of the collaboration opportunities offered by the working group on the Rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. They called for the rapid implementation of the AAMIR operation. The participants also stressed the numerous difficulties and obstacles encountered by local southern NGOs when they tried to deal with the refugees and migrants issue. They expressed their willingness to enhance networking and sharing of knowledge inside the Rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers working group, as well as to increase their activities. All in all, the working group should work as a sounding board and thus contribute to the defence of the rights of the migrants and refugees.

2. Presentation of the working group activities

1. On-going activities

- Enhancing the capacities of the local actors through regional working group for the purpose of networking, training and policy discussion.
- Elaboration of 3 regional reports for the purpose of mapping and awareness-raising
- Advocacy at EU and Euro-Med level

2. Planned activities

- 2 regional working groups meetings per year
- 1 sub-regional meeting per year
- 3 field visits per year
- 1 fact sheet report on Maghreb
- Alert actions in relation to individual cases

Chadi Sidhom, the working group coordinator, insisted on the need for members to include the issue of migrants and refugee protection within their agenda as well as the need to receive more information from the members.

3. Issues of common interest to the northern and southern countries of the Euro-Med region

- Migrant workers' protection
- Access to international protection
- Detention
- Deportation conditions

There is a need for better cooperation between Northern and Southern organisations to ensure a proper follow-up on individual cases and gather information for advocacy purpose on migration and asylum policies implemented in the framework of the Euro-Med cooperation. The ratification and implementation of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the International Convention on Migrants' Rights should be regarded as a priority.

4. Discussion with the floor

- We need to keep looking at migration and asylum through a human rights-based approach. The new European policies have launched a system of shared responsibility with the countries from the South, connected – on the basis of cooperation on border control - to development policy and not only to human rights.
- We need to reinforce the NGOs from the South. The utmost priority is to improve the situation in the South as most refugees would not make it to Europe.
- There is a difference in nature between the migrations in the North and in the South. In the South, the issue of migration is two-fold: emigration to the North and immigration from the South.
- The task of the civil organisations acting for the enforcement of migrants rights in southern countries of the Euro-Med region is all the more complicated as the nationals' own rights are often being denied.
- The working group should work on the basis of the African Union (AU) convention, ratified by all the African states, and get in touch with legal advisers to use this convention and get a deeper knowledge of its mechanisms.

Gender workshop

EMHRN Coordinator: Lina Alqurah

The purpose of the workshop was to present the gender working group's activities and its future work program for 2008-2010.

The concerns of the Women's Rights and Gender group are two-fold:

1. Internally: how to integrate the gender issue in the generalist NGOs at all levels and give it more visibility in terms of gender parity. The work strategy focused on the production and use of the referential document that is the Gender Mainstreaming reference Toolkit (GMTK).
 2. Externally: monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan⁶ and advocacy work in preparation for the 2009 Ministerial Euro-Med Follow-up Conference on Strengthening the role of Women in Society, to be held in Morocco under the Swedish presidency of the EU.
1. The first part of the workshop focused on:
 1. The presentation of the 2008-2010 work program
 - Promote the know-how and capacity of generalist NGOs in mainstreaming gender equality through training courses and using the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit (GMTK). The work done on the statuses, the strategy paper and the working groups' statuses took gender mainstreaming into account.
 - Support campaigns on lifting reservations to CEDAW
 - Monitor the mainstreaming of gender equality within the Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)

2. The presentation of the EMHRN's Gender Audit (2006-2008)

The EMHRN was able to promote consideration of women's needs and concerns and improve the representation of women at the structural, as on the program and activities level. A considerable work was carried out in order to improve and integrate gender equality in the organisation.

3. The Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit (GMTK)

The GMTK is an implementation tool for the promotion of gender mainstreaming.

This kit was used at three different levels:

- Strategic: raising awareness, raise debate on the importance of promoting gender equality within human rights organisations in particular.
- Knowledge level: to provide concepts and definitions to improve understanding of gender issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region with respect to gender mainstreaming.
- Ownership and implementation: tool to be used at the political, organisational and program levels and in the members activities.

4. Recommendations from the participants for the first part of the workshop

- Consider changing "droits de l'Homme" to "droits humains" (in French)
- Organisations are encouraged to share their experiences of gender mainstreaming
- Implement the kit to reduce the gender inequality gap; this is to be specified before implementation
- Make the issue of gender equality transversal in all matters dealt within the Network's generalist human rights organisations
- Inform about the Network gender audit and encourage the Network members to do the same

2. The second part of the workshop focused on the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan

1. Presentation of the Istanbul Action Plan

The Gender and Women's rights working group has undertaken an evaluation of the Istanbul Action Plan. This evaluation identified weaknesses. Beginning with the preamble, the targets and indicators are not defined; no proper follow-up mechanism has been planned or executed.

The gender group has been very active:

- on the follow-up of the Istanbul Action Plan
- by being present in the various EU related meetings
- by producing a document where recommendations for 2009 Follow-up Conference were made.

The working group calls for placing the emphasis on gender equality and the implementation of mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement of the Action Plan.

2. Presentation of the working group strategies

It is a positive sign that the action plan exists as such and has been signed by 35 countries. But it does have limitations: the working group has undertaken an awareness-raising campaign to improve the Istanbul Action Plan. The working group has been working on the preparation of a 2009 follow-up conference.

The working group has also directed its lobbying activities towards the successive EU presidencies and the various EU bodies. The working group has recently obtained good results after having organised several meetings with Spanish officials in Madrid.

3. Recommendations from the participants for the second part of the workshop

The discussion focused on the limitations of the Union For the Mediterranean (UFM) and its implications for gender mainstreaming. It was stressed that, in its new form, the UFM had limitations. The Egyptian co-presidency presents a genuine problem for two reasons:

- The Egyptian co-presidency may hinder NGOs participation in meetings of the UFM in preparation for the conference.
- It is resistant to gender equality.

The Egyptian co-presidency may obstruct the holding of the 2009 follow-up conference in Morocco.

This is why the following recommendations were voiced:

- The EMHRN Executive Committee should contact EU officials as soon as possible in order to get a clearer picture of the UFM goals and institutional functioning.
- Ensure involvement of NGOs in the Euro-Med region through the implementation, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the Istanbul Action Plan.
- Build alliances, strengthen networking and coordination
- Disseminate widely the working group recommendations for 2009 follow-up conference and advocate for their adoption, collect signatures.
- Strengthen the lobbying work:
 1. at the European Commission if its position is weakened
 2. at the EU Parliament
 3. at the different EU presidencies
 4. at the Arab League and towards Egyptian officials, asking them to clarify their position
 5. at the EU member states level

Day 3, December 13 (Saturday)

Workshops

Human rights Education

EMHRN Coordinator: Nour Hemici

1. Presentation of the Human rights Education working group activities
 1. Introduction, by Nour Hemici, Project coordinator

Since 2006, the main objective of the project has been to promote the dissemination of human rights values throughout the region. The working group set three objectives: 1. pursue networking among human rights NGOs on human rights education; 2. exchange of methodology and approaches; 3. assess policies.

From 2006 to 2008, the working group was engaged in several activities, including the organisation of two summer schools involving more than 120 NGOs. The working group also released two publications: «Human Rights Education in the Euro-Mediterranean region - Issues and Challenges» (2008) and a resource book in 2007 («Bringing human rights visions to public schools»).

The summer school addresses young people. The idea was to create an informal network of young people working on human rights. The main objectives of these summer schools are capacity building and networking. Thanks to the working group, there is now a network dedicated to human rights education. What's more, the resource book is based on human rights education methodologies and is meant to be very interactive and participatory.

The survey questionnaire launched in February 2008 aimed at reviewing human rights education activities and methodologies among EMHRN members in the region and to review needs, wants and barriers as regards to human rights education. The EMHRN had interviews with around 60 organisations. The working group has thus highlighted key issues and identified some priority areas for the next period: 1. the pursuing of summer schools (the working group still have to discuss on whether these summer schools should be open exclusively to the working group members – see *infra*, discussion), 2. the promotion of networking through the organisation of regional seminars, 3. get more actors, such as officials and authorities, involved in the WG activities.

2. Presentation by Mohammed Zeidan, Arab Association for Human rights (HRA)

The Director from the Arab Organization/association for Human Rights presented ten topics challenging human rights education in the Euro-Med region:

1. The Arab Association for Human Rights has activities both in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Dealing with human rights education in the Middle East means acting in a region lacking peace and security. The main issue for HRA is thus how to ensure peace and security.
2. In the Middle East, the people's basic rights still have to be enforced. As a result, human rights education is clearly not perceived as a priority for human rights organisations. This makes the definition of a target group for HRE projects difficult.
3. There is a considerable amount of frustration in the region: knowing your rights does not necessarily lead to their enforcement. The Arab Association for Human Rights motto is «Knowing your rights is the first step to get them» - but, in the Middle East, this assertion proves more often than not to be wrong - the truth is that it's the opposite that happens in most cases: even though individuals are aware of their rights, they are in no position to enforce them.
4. When referring to human rights, one also refers to a cluster of representations linked to citizenship. In the Middle East, the situation in the field is very different as discrimination and racism are gaining ground. The citizens' rights - their very identity - are being denied. As a non-Jew, it is extremely difficult to integrate into the State of Israel – a Jewish state. That's why we have to make the definition of the democratic state in Israel evolve.
5. As a whole, HRE is perceived by the community as elite work. Although we choose to work in closer association with youth, human rights education activities and projects are not grass-root oriented enough.
6. HRE projects lack resources: we cannot go on working on such a scale and remain efficient with so few resources. Most of our activities rely on external funds and we are trying to find local alternatives.
7. The double standard policy we are confronted to when working on human rights in the Euro-Med region is another major challenge. We educate people so as to get them to respect and defend human rights, but these people are well aware of the gap between theory and practice. While Israel is violating human rights, it has just been granted advanced status by the EU.
8. We get the feeling we are working in two different directions: on the one hand, civil society and, on the other, the EU. The EMHRN was initiated following the EU-initiated Barcelona Process. The EU also encouraged civil society working on human rights – while at the same

time supporting Israel. Human rights NGOs should focus on putting an end to this paradox in order to preserve their credibility.

9. As civil society organisations, we have to be aware of our limits. Human rights policies are determined mainly by governments, not by civil society. Civil society organizations are indeed the weakest link in determining the conditions in which people live.
10. In order to face those challenges, we launched and developed a program called HRE and Outreach. This program combines education and concrete activities: the participants go not only through educational process, but they also need to do something about human rights. They need to do something every month for their community. It can be as simple as cleaning the street, or working with elders.

3. Presentation by Colm Regan, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World

The working group did some research to help us plan our activities better. We conducted a survey of the members to know what they were doing: 54 members identified themselves as being involved in education. Yet, only 29 responded to our survey. Some of the answers were coined for the purpose of getting either funding or visibility. The working group is aware of these shortcomings.

Four fundamental strengths were however identified: 1. Growing recognition of HRE as part of the HR core agenda; 2. Growing inclusion of HRE activities on different meetings agendas; 3. The diversity of approaches of the working group; 4. The richness of the dialogue which the network offers.

The central weakness of the working group is the lack of internal democracy and transparency in the NGOs of the Euro-Med region. The young people we talked to were very critical about their leadership. The decision making process, the lack of communication and follow-up within these organisations are central issues. Some organisations use the human rights education language, but their knowledge in HRE is deficient.

The working group has identified five areas in which the network wants us to work on: 1. Communication within the network, 2. Networking, 3. Methodology, 4. Need for popular education. We have to re-focus our activities on grass-roots militants, 5. The debate around youth is essential: young people will not join us if they perceive our actions are not relevant enough.

2. Discussions

1. Human rights education in authoritarian regimes

A participant underlined the contrast between theory and practice in the defence of human rights. A case in point is the situation in Syria, where it is extremely difficult to get in contact with youth networks and to organise summer schools. Another participant stressed on the necessity to adopt different approaches to Human rights education according to the country's political situation. Where there is no rule of law, the emphasis should be put on training on human rights protection and not on human rights as such.

It was pointed out that the working group should be more careful when organising events in such authoritarian regimes so as not to put the participants at risk. The working group has had some bad experiences, as when articles appeared in newspapers saying the working group was cooperating with human rights organisations in Israel. The working group should provide protection and experience to its members and work in a more informal way, without putting things in papers and publicising the methodologies.

2. Teaching of refugee rights within the working group

A participant suggested the working group put more emphasis on its work on the education of refugee rights. There are indeed valuable resource books and syllabuses to teach refugee rights and law (the UNHCR has for example set up a lot of material to teach refugee law). Another participant insisted the WG should exert more pressure – strengthen its lobbying activities toward the EU to attract funding

and legal clinics in the Euro-Med region. It is indeed the presence of legal clinics which first attracted the attention of the Helsinki committees towards refugee law. These legal clinics needed to be taught refugee law.

3. The different approaches to human rights education

It was remarked that most of the working group members were human rights activists who regarded education and human rights education as a kind of a hobby. Human rights education is actually a very technical and specific field. For example: emotional training, which is now being developed inside the working group, requires very specific skills.

A member suggested the terminology used by the working group be unified and clarified. For instead, by clarifying whether the working group sessions were dedicated to the training of trainers or to trainees themselves. That lack of continuity in the terminology undermines the efficiency of the activities of the working group. Another participant disagreed, underlining that such terms as «training of trainers» were very often empty concepts, empty shells mainly used as a «ticking box» to get grants when filling in application forms. The reality in the field is rather different and more diversified: there are several approaches to human rights education. For example, some would come and act as teachers, talking to students. It is the dominant model, although it is not a successful one.

The different participants agreed on the need to focus on certain specific issues and to lead a more topic- oriented research. The debates seem to loose in relevance as it goes down the information chain. The EMHRN should play a major role in disseminating the information accurately.

4. The organisation and evaluation of the summer schools

It was explained that there were several summer schools: they all have their specificities and deal with a specific theme. A strengthened cooperation between the network members would be extremely beneficial to the working group as its objective is to reach an ever larger public and to get 70% of the network members involved in the HRE project. In this regard, the added value of summer schools cannot be denied: the more opportunities people have to work across the region, the better it is. Those summer schools should be accessible only to the network's members. The second criterion would be that it should not be free.

There are also comments on age profile, gender balances, etc. The working group also has a dilemma about whether it should mix those who have great experience and those who are just starting out. There is an ongoing debate in the working group about the creation of different groups according to age, gender and especially the necessity to gather in the same meetings those who just start in advocating human rights and the more experienced.

Several participants expressed their intentions to open a debate about the languages used in the WG sessions and meetings. The fact that all the sessions are taking place in English may indeed come as a hindrance for some members of the working group.

5. Coordination between the working group members and within the EMHRN

A participant stressed the need to make more use of the Internet and the new technologies. Those new means of communication are indeed among the most efficient and rapid means to reach out to an even larger public. The working group should set up a core working group representing the different organisations involved in the use of the new technologies.

Some insisted that the working group's role is to try to coordinate and support its members. But some members resist the EMHRN coordinating. Influence on government policy when this is feasible and possible is a priority.

It was insisted on the need to acknowledge a diversity of approaches to human rights education as a precious asset. All the working group members would probably never agree on the targets and the methodologies. Several participants stressed the need to strengthen the involvement of northern organisations in the working group as the EMHRN was clearly dominated by southern civil society organisations.

Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) workshop

EMHRN Coordinator: Nathalie Stanus

1. First session: presentation of the 2008-2010 work program

1. Ahmad Wessam, Al-Haq: The human rights situation in Israel and in the OPT

The human rights situation is deteriorating on a daily basis. The working group (WG) did a lot of work even without a coordinator for a year and a half. The advocacy work improved a lot with the new coordinator. The advocacy is the strongest point of the PIP WG. When Palestinian organisations deliver their message alone, this is perceived as a one-sided vision. When Palestinians and Israelis work together, our message is easier to deliver and more attention is paid to it. We thus manage to have a stronger position. It is therefore important for the WG to go on focusing its strategy on advocacy. We could of course question the impact of our advocacy. Indeed, the upgrading of Israel to advanced status is going on. But we also know we are in a long term process.

The human rights situation in the field is generally well-known by the EU officials. We need to provide them with some incentives to take action, because there is a clear lack of political will. The WG uses more and more EU law and the way Israel violates international law entails the EU violates its own law. The enforcement of EU law is what made us gain the EU support and break the silence on the situation in the Palestinian territories. The settlement issue is in this regard a main obstacle to peace: the more the EU engages with Israel, the more likely they will involve settlements based entities and products in the EU.

Regarding the violations, we should mention the further occupation of East-Jerusalem, the settlement expansion, the use of torture and ill-treatment against Palestinians by Israel, the discrimination against the Palestinian minority inside Israel. The members of the WG have expertise in these various fields.

2. Ghassan Abdallah, Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO): The situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

Sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the situation of refugees is still deteriorating. We should focus our work on Gaza and the West Bank, but also on the Palestinian refugees: they are vital to our cause as they represent half the Palestinian population.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have no civil, political, economic or cultural rights. The law prohibits them to work, to be entitled to social security, to create associations, to build houses, etc. Since 2001, Palestinians may lose their legally purchased property if they fail to register it. Those registration procedures are typically complicated and time-consuming. As for services such as health and education, Lebanon has shied away from its responsibilities since 1948 and has burdened UNRWA with them – UNRWA which is not able to fully carry out its duties. As a law entitling Lebanese women to pass their nationality on to their children was under discussion, it was decided that Palestinian women or Lebanese women married to Palestinians would be exceptions and not benefit from this law. This illustrates the discrimination Palestinian refugees are subjected to.

The Lebanese government calls the Palestinian camps security zones, thus completely isolating the Palestinians. The frustration of young Palestinians is then exploited by the radicals. The Nahr el-Bared refugee camp was destroyed under the cover of fighting against terrorism.

I hope the EMHRN will express more concerns for the Palestinian refugees.

Recommendations:

- I encourage other Lebanese members of the Network to take part in the PIP WG. In order to broaden the work on the Palestinian Refugees, the EMHRN should encourage EMHRN Members working on refugees to join the Palestine, Israel and Palestinians working group.
- We should then organise campaigns to increase the pressure on this issue. The WG should go on conducting lobbying and advocacy missions on the national and international levels as well as send missions to these countries in order to get a deeper knowledge of the situation of Palestinian refugees in the field. We should focus on preparing or making use of research and reading materials for publications, documentaries, studies which would be suitable for this advocacy work.
- We should also adopt measures to support Palestinian refugees to ensure their economic and cultural rights are respected.
- We should seize the opportunity offered by the General Assembly to adopt a text mentioning the Palestinian refugees and their rights in the Final Resolution of the EMHRN General Assembly.

3. Nathalie Stanus, PIP working group coordinator: Update on EU policies

In June 2008, following Israel's request, the EU accepted to upgrade its relations with Israel. This process is taking place in the context of the ENP, and is open to all ENP countries. On 8 December 2008, the EU offered Israel a far-reaching political upgrading without any previous commitments from Israel to respect international law or any improvement of the human rights situation in the field. The EMHRN General Assembly will adopt an urgent resolution on this issue.

Two weeks ago, the European Parliament postponed a vote on a protocol to be attached to EU-Israel Association agreement allowing Israel's participation in certain community programs including Media, Culture, Innovation and Competition, in which Israel is particularly interested. There was a lot of confusion among civil society organisations in Europe and inside Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories regarding this vote. Some even stated that the European Parliament was voting on the upgrading. The European Parliament is not voting on the upgrading as this is a political decision to be approved by the 27 member States and Israel.

In December the European Parliament decided to postpone this vote on the protocol (consent procedure) as well as the accompanying non-binding political resolution as a protest to the lack of progress regarding the peace-process and the deteriorating situation in the field for Palestinians, in particular in the Gaza Strip. The political resolution refers to the equal participation of the Arab minority inside Israel in community programs to which Israel participates. The resolution also calls the EU member states to prevent the illegal Israeli settlement from benefiting from Israel's participation in Community programs.

Once approved by the European Parliament, this will be an important resolution to support our lobbying work. The vote on the protocol and the political resolutions should take place at the next plenary session of the European parliament due to take place in January 2009.

4. Stefan Lütgenau, Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights. Presentation of the PIP WG work program for 2008-2010

The WG works on two axes: the respect of international human rights and humanitarian law, and their enhancement within Israel and the OPT. The PIP WG is meant to be a civil society forum with members from Israel, Palestine, Europe and Arab countries. It's important to have this kind of forum as it enhances the members' capacity towards the EU.

The advocacy work of the WG addresses 3 levels of targets: the EU, the EU member states and the local level, i.e. the Israeli authorities and the PA.

In April 2008, during their working group meeting, the members decided to set up priority areas of work:

- Gaza is the top priority for the next two years: ending the occupation, ensuring the freedom of movement, establish connections between West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem
- Regarding the West Bank and East Jerusalem top issues are: accountability, impunity, torture and ill-treatment, freedom of movement, wall, and settlements.
- Arab citizens in Israel (housing rights, Bedouins, citizenship law, accountability)
- Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (Right to work, Right to housing and property).

Until now, the last issue has not been handled the way it should be handled, despite the name of the WG which refers to Palestinians.

The WG addresses those issues through monitoring (studies, missions), advocacy (Parliaments, Ministries...), training on EU law and EU-Israel/PA relations and networking. The fact that the working group meets on a regular basis and exchanges information is an advantage. Unfortunately Gaza members have not been able to participate in meetings even when they took place in the region.

You can find more information on the PIP activities on the website, which by the way should be improved.

The upcoming events of the working group are:

- The next WG meeting will take place in Gaza, followed by a meeting in Jerusalem.
 - Several advocacy tours are planned in Europe for 2008-2009: Madrid, Sweden, Czech Republic, Denmark, Belgium and Spain.
 - Cooperation with other organisations, including with the Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe (APRODEV) regarding training issues.
2. Second session: Issam Younis, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights: The humanitarian and human rights situation in the Gaza strip

Until the 1967 war, Gaza was under Egyptian Administration - whereas the West Bank was under Jordanian administration. After the 1967 war and the following Israeli occupation, Gaza and the West Bank became united. From the 1994 Peace Process on, the Palestinian territory has been subjected to a systematic process of separation. This geographical separation has led to a weakening of the Palestinian identity. I was very sceptical about the Oslo peace process. However, there was at least one good thing: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were regarded as a single territory.

The present situation in Gaza is utterly absurd. Palestinians are asked to give the peace process a chance although the settlement expansions and the construction of the Wall are going on. From 1994 until now, the settlements multiplied in East-Jerusalem even more than before the peace process. The Israeli government is trying to gain time, creating an inextricable situation in the field so that the creation of the Palestinian state will never become a reality. Gaza is currently under siege for the first time since 1967. The whole society depends on Israel: 90% of Gaza input comes from Israel and a large part of the Gaza population used to work in Israel.

I managed to get out of Gaza with the help of the Germans. The Israeli condition to let me out was that I would not touch the Israeli ground. A German diplomatic car got me out of Gaza through the Erez border and brought me to the Jordanian border where I could cross.

Gaza has 4 frontier posts: Erez for individuals, Nahal Oz for fuel, Karni for commodities, Sufa for cement and construction materials. Israel uses the closing and opening of these borders as collective

punishment. The Rafah border is an international border. The closing is destructive: no electricity means no drinking water, no light ... These measures have been taken by Israel in order to isolate Hamas: the idea behind it being that Gaza people would then revolt against the Hamas. As for Mahmoud Abbas, he is not engaging with the Hamas because Israel does not want him to do so.

Three events are taking place: the closing of Gaza, the separation between Gaza and the West Bank and a process of re-development of the Gaza strip. Recently Israel refused the transfer of Shekels to the Gaza Strip. As a consequence the Palestinian Authority could not pay their civil servants, while the Hamas had liquidities to pay their own people. The problem is that Israel has a broad definition of security: going from the transfer of Shekels to house demolition.

The WG has decided to work along the following three axes:

- Freedom of movement for human rights defenders. They should be allowed to attend meetings. We can get them out when there is sufficient diplomatic pressure.
- A report on Gaza
- The next working group meeting will take place in Gaza end of March. This will be a challenge as, one month ago, 20 diplomats were denied entry to Gaza by Israel.

3. Discussions

1. Discussion on the lobbying activities of the PIP working group

Magali Thill (ACSUR) insisted that the European Parliament decision to postpone its vote on the protocol to be attached to EU-Israel Association agreement allowing Israel's participation in certain community programs including Media, Culture, Innovation and Competition (cf. *supra*, the update on EU policies - Nathalie Stanus) had to be seen as a clear stand for conditionality regarding EU-Israel relations. She added NGOs in Europe had done a great job encouraging the postponement of the vote: such lobbying activities should be continued. However, a representative of the Commission recently stated that the ENP was not an instrument based on human rights conditionality. Ms Thill added the upcoming European elections (June 2009) would be a perfect timing for the WG to do some advocacy on the MEPs.

Mohammed Zeidan (Arab Association for Human Rights) insisted on the importance to address the issue of the human rights violations inside Israel in the PIP agenda. The level of work on the Palestinian minority inside Israel is expected to increase, especially regarding a) legal discrimination, as more and more discriminatory laws are adopted and b) racism in public spheres. The WG has to monitor the situation of the Palestinian minority within the upcoming elections in Israel (March 2009) and put this issue on the agenda of the next WG meeting in March.

Ishaï Menuchin, Director of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) expressed his concern over the past failures of Palestinian, Israeli and International organisations to unite their strengths to put an end to the occupation. He insisted on the need to work together and speak with one voice: the building-up of a common message is indeed the distinctiveness of the Network. Every member of the WG should advocate for dialogue and work on its own community in order to put an end to the violations in the OPT and in Israel.

2. The working group activities at national level

Several members stated their intentions to put the emphasis on the work at national level. Magali Thill specified that, though the WG has been doing a great job, its advocating at national level should be a clear priority. Mohammed Zeidan said the WG should intensify its work at national level, where the interest for the PIP issue is clearly growing. This national approach should be complementary to the WG advocacy in Brussels.

3. Gaza report

Marc Schade-Poulsen (Executive Director of the EMHRN) explained the WG would analyse the legal and political obligations of the EU in its report on Gaza (cf. *supra*, the presentation on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza by Issam Younis). This report could also be used as an opportunity to speak with one voice.

When asked how the Gaza report (see Issam Younis presentation) could be used with the Israelis, Mr Menuchin explained it would depend on the wording of the report: the WG would have to find the right political wording if it wants to influence the Israeli society. For most Israelis, Israeli HR organisations are Palestinian lovers. On the other hand, Israelis look for international recognition: the fact that the report is drafted by a network of NGOs would make it more acceptable to the Israeli public.

4. The role of the Arab organisations of the EMHRN

The members discussed the absence of Arab organizations in the PIP WG. Issam Younis (Al-Mezan center for Human Rights) and Marc Schade-Poulsen explained The Cairo Institute used to be a member of the PIP WG. They withdrew due to the financial cost of interpretation: their representative only spoke Arabic. If in the future several Arabic-speaking representatives of EMHRN members wanted to become member of the PIP WG, the EMHRM would consider allocating a budget for interpretation.

5. Discussions on the broadening of the mandate of the PIP working group

Marc Schade-Poulsen (Executive Director of the EMHRN) raised a debate about the possible broadening of the WG mandate. He suggested the WG might consider presenting its activities to other organizations - such as the Arab League and the UN forums - as EU officials failed to listen to both the WG conclusions and the civil society at large.

Wesam Ahmad (Al-Haq) disagreed, considering that, if the WG had indeed failed to influence EU policies, it had better focus on the EU rather than broaden its mandate. The EMHRN had more recognition at EU level: United Against Torture (UAT), bringing together Palestinian and Israeli organisations already exists at UN level. He also stressed the importance of increasing the WG involvement with individual member states. He was joined by Ishaï Menuchin (PCATI).

On the other hand, Stefan Lütgenau (Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights) and Rola Badran (Palestinian Human Rights Organization) pointed out that, since most WG members were already involved at EU level, it would be a shame not to work with the UN - although the WG should adopt a different strategy to that adopted at the EU level. UN Committees are issuing comprehensive reports which are remarkable in their scope: the WG could take this opportunity to make its voice heard. The WG could also refer to the CERD and CAT treaty bodies. In this regard, the WG should consider doing some work on torture in view of the CAT revision of Israel in 2009.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its decision on the Israeli security barrier [the Court announced that Israel violated international law in the routing of the security fence and called on Israel to dismantle sections built in the West Bank and East Jerusalem]. Magali Thill (ACSUR) argued that the ICJ decision was the only instrument the WG had at its disposal to strengthen international law in the region. Ms Thill made it clear the ICJ decision should be referred to in the final declaration of the General Assembly and in all the WG declarations.

Freedom of Association workshop

EMHRN Coordinator: Thibaut Guillet

1. Presentation of the first two Reviews on Freedom of Association

The purpose of this workshop was to proceed to an evaluation of the activities carried out during the first two years of the project, and to benefit from the expertise and experience of the participants to strengthen the Freedom of Association project and consider new fields for future action.

1. Presentation of the first two Reviews by Khémaïs Chammari, Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH)

The first review detailed the legislation on freedom of association in the 11 countries of the eastern and southern Mediterranean. This review received a warm welcome in Brussels as it was presented in December 2007 to the members of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights.

The second review put the stress on the actual implementation of these legislations relating to freedom of association. Khémaïs Chammari summed up the conclusions of this second review which aimed at measuring broad trends of the freedom of association in 2008. This review established a distinction between three different groups: freedom of association is generally respected, and people actually enjoy this freedom, freedom of association is limited for all or denied to certain groups, freedom of association is denied to all, or very limited for all without distinction. Mr Chammari stressed the review did not pay enough attention to the African instruments on human rights as several Arab States are also members of African organisations.

2. Presentation of a chapter of the second Review: The influence of anti-terrorist legislations on freedom of Association by Susie Alegre, Independent Legal Consultant

Susie Alegre described the main elements of this chapter, which summarizes the situation and describes the overall trends of freedom of association in the Euro-Med region, both in the North and in the South in relation to anti-terrorism legislations. This chapter goes into details and shows how the continued enforcement of the state of emergency in Syria, Egypt and Algeria is used to limit freedom of association. Euro-Med countries have forged their own and very broad definition of terrorism, not taking into account the definition of terrorism at European level, as referred to in the European legislation.

The issue of the prohibition of terrorist organisations is essential: lists of terrorist organisations have been established by the United Nations and the European Union as well as by national law-makers. The European Court of Justice recently condemned the European institutions for not respecting the rights of the defence and the requirements ensuring fairness of debate. The funding of these organizations regarded as terrorist by those restrictive legislations is especially troublesome and makes it even harder for NGOs to work in the Euro-Med region. Ms. Alegre stressed these issues were especially acute in the Gaza Strip, where the Hamas is also the main donor of numerous hospitals and schools. Foreign organisations aiming at funding are often prevented from doing so from fear that those funds might be used to terrorist ends. The report concluded on several concrete recommendations.

3. The presentation of the second Review before the European Parliament, Thibaut Guillet

Thibaut Guillet briefly described the launching of the second review on Freedom of Association before the European Parliament which had taken place a few days before the GA. Several meetings had been organised with the Permanent Representation of Sweden (which is to take the EU Presidency in

July 2009), the Director of Human rights, Humanitarian and Social affairs of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Tunisian desk of the European Commission.

2. Presentation of the working group activities in the next two years

1. The creation of a regional tool for the defence of the freedom of association (Thibaut Guillet)

The working group aims at providing civil society organisations with a tool to assess regional trends in freedom of association. The next working group would have to address two main issues: 1. discuss the content, the methodology and benchmarks of the next two reviews and 2. ensure an efficient advocacy work after the publication of the first reports.

Despite a limited budget, the working group managed to meet officials and NGOs both in Egypt and in Jordan. The working group is currently working on the enhancement of its lobbying activities: these could include, among others, the presentation of the working group's report during the examination of the periodic report of Jordan (February 2009 in Geneva) and an advocacy mission to Morocco in 2009. Lobbying activities are also planned at the European Parliament and the European Commission. The agenda of the new working group would also put the emphasis on actions of solidarity towards human rights activists experiencing tremendous pressure.

2. Presentation of the major challenges facing the working group (Moataz El Fegiery, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS))

Moataz El Fegiery insisted on the need for the working group to make use of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) framework and implementation mechanisms. The ENP Action plans indeed wish all partner states to meet international standards. Mr El Fegiery said the growing number of independent media in the Arab world would also represent a golden opportunity for protest movements and NGOs to make their voices heard. He acknowledged the positive role played by the EMHRN in supporting the Egyptian bill on freedom of association of NGOs. This legislation is now backed up by about 25 Egyptian organisations. However, the EMHRN is not the only organisation to address the issue of freedom of association in the Euro-Med. Increased coordination with other organizations dealing with this subject would be highly beneficial. Mr El Fegiery eventually expressed his concern regarding the numerous attempts at restricting the presence and participation of NGOs in international platforms: this worrying evolution should be referred to in the next Freedom of association review.

3. Discussions and recommendations

1. Debate on the controversial role of Government-Operated Non-Governmental Organizations (GONGOs)

In order to counter those states who sought to limit the presence and action of NGOs beyond the national level, the participants of the workshop suggested fact sheets on the participation of associations at regional and international level be included in the next review. Several participants pointed out that GONGOs were often used to limit the impact of independent NGOs and limiting their participation in international fora.

For those authoritative regimes, hindering the functioning of local NGOs is an efficient means to clear the way for the promotion of state-owned GONGOs. These practices are quite common in Sudan, Tunisia and Syria. The working group should therefore focus on the role of GONGOs in the Arab world and gain in-depth knowledge of these organisations as these state-owned organisations are likely to spread in the coming years. One participant pointed out many organisations in the North failed to make the distinction between GONGOs and NGOs due to their lack of knowledge of the situation in the Euro-Med region.

Others argued the EMHRN had neither the mandate nor the capacity to distinguish between the good and the bad organisations. However, they stressed it might be interesting and fruitful to highlight the inner ambivalence of GONGOs as it appears in their own statements.

Several participants pointed out that many governments of the Euro-Med prevented independent organizations from being officially registered and from receiving funding. They also criticized the interference of the local judicial systems in the associations day-to-day functioning. The Tunisian judicial system has interfered several times in the internal affairs of the Tunisian League for Human Rights. The participants insisted these issues should be included in the next review.

2. Recommendations for the future lobbying activities of the working group

One participant suggested a larger diffusion of the FAO working group reports and reviews to the working groups' main donors and especially the Dutch and German foundations. Another participant insisted on the need to enhance collaboration with journalists and media to improve media coverage, this would function as a lever for the activities of the working group.

The successes the EMHRN obtained by the WG through its lobbying activities in Brussels and the adoption of a new law on associations in Jordan were highlighted. Several participants suggested the WG should intensify its lobbying activities in Brussels. One participant asked for the launching of monitoring mechanisms regarding the actions of the WG at EU-level as he considered evidence was lacking that these meetings delivered concrete results in the field.

Presentation and discussion of the concept paper on working groups

Chair: Moataz El Fegiery, CIHRS, member of the executive committee

Presentation: Eva Norström, vice-President of the EMHRN

This session was dedicated to the discussion of the EMHRN working methods and main strategies. A video was shown to the public, introducing the working groups' concept.

Eva Norström, Vice-President of the EMHRN, made a short presentation of the concept paper on working groups. Ms Norström stressed the EMHRN strongly encouraged its members to get more involved in the activities of the working groups, especially as new calls for participation had just been launched.

The common objective of the six working groups is to promote and strengthen human rights, using the framework of the Barcelona Process. The vice-President reminded the EMHRN counted more than 80 organisations: the working groups are the best possible way to make them work together and ensure their active participation. Each member organisation can choose to participate in three different working groups.

The different themes of the working groups were determined following a broad consultation among the EMHRN members and reflect the priorities and needs of the members' organisations.

Ms Norström summed up the assets of the six working groups:

- The six working groups are developing into pools of expertise at European level. Ms Norström stressed their coordinators and members were regularly invited to conferences and seminars in order to present their reports and publications.
- Working groups coordinate their activities with other organisations which are not members of the EMHRN. This partnership strategy reinforces the EMHRN as a whole.
- Organisations which first met through the EMHRN working groups were able to launch national and local networks, and thus common projects. This growing collaboration between the members' organisations is all the more important as the EMHRN donors have underlined the necessity to strengthen collaboration between the members.

- The members of the Network should lead solidarity actions to support one another in difficult times.
- The exchange of informal knowledge and practices is also an essential bonus of the Network.

The vice-President of the EMHRN insisted the EMHRN should always answer the following four questions before launching actions at working group level:

1. To what extent does the WG improve the EMHRN knowledge on a given theme
2. To what extent does the WG contribute to implementing the EMHRN strategy
3. To what extent do they have impact on governments and EU policies
4. To what extent do they act as catalyst for networking

The participants made the following suggestions:

- General strategies should be transformed into concrete proposals which could influence governments at national level and contribute to the proposal of reforms
- The EMHRN should work on mediating the achievement of the working groups inside and outside the EMHRN, develop synergies between the WGs and between the WGs and the EC
- The advocacy work inside the working groups should be strengthened
- The working groups should be more representative and promote gender mainstreaming
- Annual meetings between the WG coordinators and political referents should be organized in order to avoid duplication of work already done at local level by member organisations

Marit Flø-Jørgensen, Program director of the EMHRN, further commented the concept paper on working groups:

- She stressed this concept paper was the result of a long process during which the emphasis was put on the need to clarify the structures, responsibilities of the EMHRN members, WGs and EC.
- Advocacy and research activities are complementary: it is indeed impossible to lead advocacy work without first having gained in-depth knowledge of a specific field. This is especially true in the Euro Med region, as overall knowledge of the region is badly lacking.

Ms. Flø Jørgensen thanked all the participants for their useful comments and suggestions.

Presentation of the candidates for the Executive Committee

Chair: Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation
Hayati Yasamsal, Rights and Freedom Association

The candidates for the Executive Committee introduced themselves:

Kamel Jendoubi, President of the EMHRN, was the only candidate to the EMHRN presidency. Having experienced immigration in France, Mr Jendoubi expressed his belief that a democratic society could be judged according to the treatment it reserved to its minorities. Mr Jendoubi was also an active trade unionist and an advocate of the rights of the Palestinians. He regretted he was the only candidate enlisted for the presidency of the EMHRN as he would have liked to hand over to a woman or a representative of a younger generation in order to strengthen the representativeness of the EMHRN.

The following members were candidates to the EC:

1. **Wadih Al Asmar, member of the Franco-Lebanese organization SOLIDA**. SOLIDA now counts 15 employees. SOLIDA has been active in Lebanon, defending freedom of association and acting for the improvement of the conditions of detention. Mr Al Asmar engaged himself to enhancing the visibility of EMHRN if elected. He stressed the need for the EMHRN to influence ongoing projects in the Euro-Med region, and in particular the UFM, to make sure these projects would not neglect the human rights issue.
2. **Rola Badran, Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO)**, joined the organization in 2003 and is now Program Director. She has been working on several projects with Palestinian refugees. She stressed the importance of human rights education and the need for the EMHRN to reach a younger public.
3. **Moataz El-Fegiery, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)** said he believed strongly in the will of EMHRN to involve youth in its activities. Mr El Fegiery recalled his involvement in the ENP as a former EC member.
4. **Mustafa Emrah Seyhanlioglu, the Association of Human Rights, Turkey**, stressed the centrality of the role of Turkey in the Euro-Med region. His organisation acts for the promotion of the rights of migrants and for the freedom of expression of the Kurds. Mr Seyhanlioglu committed himself to making the EMHRN benefit from his experience in the Euro-Med if elected.
5. **Marie Lavrentadiou, President of the Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity** is a researcher specializing in migration issues. She is already a member of the migration working group and is looking forward to becoming even more involved in the actions of EMHRN by joining the EC.
6. **Lone Lindholt, Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)** The DIHR was the cofounder of EMHRN. She wanted to make the EMHRN benefit from her strong personal commitment as an EC member. Ms. Lindholt is a lawyer and has 20 years' experience in coordination of international projects both in Africa and in the Middle East.
7. **Larbi Maaninou, Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH)** was among the founders of the AMDH and a representative of the Moroccan Forum for Truth and Justice. He paid tribute to the commitment of his Moroccan colleague, Mr NeshNash.
8. **Mohamed Nesh-Nash, Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (OMDH)** has worked on migration issues for 40 years and collaborated with the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

9. **Rahali Mohamed, Algerian League of Human Rights (LADH)** has been an activist for human rights since 1988. Although the achievements of the LADH are not given enough media coverage, this organisation delivers help to Algerian citizens in their everyday life.
10. **Daniel Saoud, Center for Democratic Freedoms (FDC)** insisted on the harsh conditions prevailing in Syria for defenders of human rights. He stressed the importance of Syria in the Euro-Med region and the relevance of the EMHRN activities.
11. **Magali Thill, Association for South Cooperation (ACSUR)** detailed her organisation's dedication to the protection of economic, social and cultural rights. ACSUR is active in three working groups (gender, migration and PIP). If elected, she would strengthen the EMHRN lobbying capacities.
12. **Michel Tubiana, Human Rights League (LDH)** is a long-standing human rights activist. Mr Tubiana believes his own freedom is endangered as long as another man's freedom is not guaranteed. He also stressed the importance to defend the universality of human rights, which are sometimes perceived as a western concept, although each country should get the possibility to choose its own path to recognize these rights. Mr Tubiana recalled the history of his organisation: the LDH was born in 1922 as a joint effort of France and Germany even though tensions between the two peoples were then particularly strong. The defence of human rights is a lengthy process that requires perseverance and Mr Tubiana wishes to make the EMHRN EC benefit from his determination.
13. **Maysa Zorob (Al Haq)** was introduced by her colleague Ahmed Wessam: although she holds a German passport, she was refused the authorization to leave Ramallah by the Israeli authorities. Ms. Zorob therefore decided to present a short film before the GA. Ms. Zorob is a legal researcher at Al-Haq and oversees violations of human rights committed in the occupied Palestinian territories. She is already a member of the PIP workshop. Ms. Zorob perceives the EMHRN as an especially useful forum for the promotion of Human rights and cooperation between North and South in the framework of the Euro-Med region.

Discussion and adoption of the Statutes^Z

Chair: Madjid Benchikh, Individual member

Anne-Laurence Lacroix, World Organisation against Torture (OMCT)

Presentation: Michel Tubiana, LDH, Member of the Executive Committee

Amendments to the statutes proposed by the Executive Committee were discussed.

Mr Tubiana presented the procedures for the adoption and the vote on the amendments of the statutes.

Main modifications:

- The EMHRN had decided to integrate some principles, such as the fight against racism, in its statutes. The mentioning of those principles in the EMHRN statutes would allow the EMHRN to support the victims of discrimination. The discussion focused on the reintegration of three terms which had erroneously disappeared in the draft version of the statutes: torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- It was also decided to amend paragraph 2.2 of the statutes to allow the EMHRN to collaborate with organisations such as the UN and the Arab League. Thanks to this modification, the EMHRN will be in position to intervene in the framework of the Commission and council on Human Rights.
- It was decided that individual members would disappear as a category. Individual members will now be granted the status of honorary members.

The statutes were adopted with the amendments by the participants:

	For	Against	Abst
Adoption of the Statutes	34	0	1

Announcement of the election results

Chair: Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation
Hayati Yasamsal, Rights and Freedom Association

The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee:

	For	Against	Abst
<u>President</u>			
Kamel Jendoubi	36	3	2
<u>Board</u>			
Al-Asmar Wadih	25		
El Fegiery Moataz	28		
Emrah Seyhanlioglu Mustafa	21		
Lavrentiadou Marie	36		
Lindholt Lone	38		
Saoud Danial	28		
Thill Magali	37		
Tubiana Michel	32		
Zorob Maysa	37		

The following were not elected as members of the Executive Committee:

	For	Against	Abst
Badran Rola	18		
Maaninou Larbi	13		
Nesh Nash Mohamed	19		
Rahali Mohammed	9		

Mr Kamel Jendoubi thanked all the former members of the EC who devoted their time for the EMHRN and expressed his regret that Morocco was not represented in the EC. He stressed that the EMHRN would nonetheless continue to work with the Moroccan organisations and support them through their participation in the EMHRN working groups.

Day 4, December 14 (Sunday)

Reports from the workshops

Chair: Magali Thill, ACSUR

Please refer to the part dedicated to the workshops (Day II and Day III) as they give a detailed review of the workshops.

Adoption of the Work program⁸ and the budget⁹

Chair: Kamel Jendoubi, President EMHRN

This session started by a presentation of the new EMHRN website <http://www.en.euro-medrights.org/>

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

This website is to be launched in three languages in March-April in 2009. Marc Degli-Espoti, Communication officer, highlighted the main new services of this website (chat, calendars, send to a friends, EMHRN fast find, my EMHRN,...)

Marc Schade Poulsen presented the budget briefly and focused on the budget for the new working group on Solidarity.

Kamel insisted it was a provisional budget and reminded the EMHRN still had difficulties finding core funding. The EMHRN still depends too much on renewals of funding: Mr Jendoubi called for an (also geographical) diversification of the funds - which would be the main task of the EMHRN newly-appointed fundraiser. The President stressed the EMHRN should encourage donors to grant funds over a two-to-three-year period. It would thus be easier for the EMHRN to strengthen its structures and plan its actions in the long term.

Mr Jendoubi said the EMHRN was thankful to faithful donors such as Danida, Sida and the European Commission which allow the EMHRN to go on working in complete independence and autonomy.

Marc Schade-Poulsen suggested the EMHRN should try to generate its own income. He said the Network was currently employing 18 staff: the network had made the choice to grow but this choice was also risky. Mr Jendoubi stressed the EMHRN should strengthen the Secretariat and guarantee good working conditions for the staff and the members.

A participant suggested the drafting of a charter of ethical funding EMHRN to receive private funding.

VOTE:

	For	Against	Abst
Budget	24	0	0
Work program / concept paper / workshop recommendations	24	0	1
Minutes of General Assembly 2006, Madrid	21	0	2

Adoption of the General Assembly Declaration¹⁰

Chair: Mokhtar Trifi, Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH)

Urgent resolution on Tunisia¹¹

Mokhtar Trifi reminded the assembly that the minimum requirement for fairness of debate had not been respected.

Extract from the resolution:

«The first pleadings of the defence on the irregularities of the procedure and prosecution were suddenly terminated as the tribunal, announcing that it was retiring to deliberate, evacuated the room and closed the hearing. On the same day, the tribunal delivered its judgement and condemned 29 individuals to sentences going from 2 year suspended prison terms to 10 year prison terms, without hearing the accused or the pleadings on the merits of the defence lawyers».

After some modification suggested by members, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Resolution on the conclusions of the EU European Council of 8-9 December 2008¹²

Michel Tubiana explained the content of the resolution.

Extracts from the resolution:

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

«The EMHRN observes that, with varying degrees, the European Union has entered into reinforced partnerships or association agreements with Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Jordan and Morocco. The EMHRN regrets that the development of bilateral relations with those countries in the fields of economy and security is not accompanied by equally strong requirements with regard to human rights».

«Strengthening the political relationship, as well as other relationships, with the State of Israel, with no other requirement than a vague reference to human rights and humanitarian law, constitutes a breach of the core principles of the Neighbourhood Policy».

Adoption of the General Assembly final declaration¹³:

After taking into account amendments suggested by members, the resolution was adopted with the following votes:

	For	Against	Abst
Final Statement of the GA with Emergency resolutions	21	2	0

APPENDIX:

Appendix 1: Agenda

Appendix 2: Minutes of General Assembly 2006, Madrid

Appendix 3: Political Report

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

Appendix 5: Financial Report

Appendix 6: Final version of the Statutes with the suggested amendments

Appendix 7: Work program 2008-2010

Appendix 8: Budget 2008-2010

Appendix 9: Final declaration

Appendix 10: Emergency resolution on Tunisia

Appendix 11: Emergency resolution on the EU European Council

Appendix 12: List of participants

Appendix 1: Agenda of the 8th General Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Barcelona 12-14 December 2008

Day 1, December 11 (Thursday)

16.00-17:00 EC Meeting

18:00-Evening Opening session at the IEMED:
Chair: Eva Norström, Vice President, EMHRN

- Andreu Felip, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation
- Xavier Badia, Catalan Office for Promotion for Peace and Human Rights
- Senén Florensa, General Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean
- Manel Vila, Director of International Cooperation and Solidarity, Barcelona City Council
- Kamel Jendoubi, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

19.00-20.00 Conference-Round Table:

- Mr Khemais Chammari, Nüremberg Human Rights Prize Winner, Expert Consultant: Human rights in the Barcelona Process: From the Barcelona Declaration to the Union for the Mediterranean.
- Ms Randa Siniora, Director General, Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights: The Human Rights Situation in the Arab World.
- Dr. Jaume Saura, President of the Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya, Professor of International Public Law, Universitat de Barcelona: The situation of Human Rights in Catalunya

Day 2, December 12 (Friday)

9.00-9.30 Welcome, adoption of the meeting Agenda and ratification of the minutes from the last General Assembly.

Chair : Kamel Jendoubi, President of the EMHRN

9.30-10.30

Presentation of reports:

Chair: Colm Regan, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World

- Political Report: Kamel Jendoubi
- Activity Report: Marc Schade-Poulsen, Executive Director EMHRN
- Financial Report: Poul Collemorten, Head of Administration EMHRN

11.00-13.15

Discussion of reports

Chairs: Eva Norström, SWERA, Vice-President of the EMHRN

Wadih al Asmar, Solida, member of the Executive Committee

13.15-13.45

Presentation of new members and vote on the reports

Chair: Rabéa Naciri, ADFM, member of the Executive Committee

13.45-14.00

Election of the Assembly Bureau, Chair Persons, Vote counters and Declaration Committee Assembly Bureau

Chair: Rabéa Naciri, ADFM, member of the Executive Committee

15.30-16.15

Presentation of Work programme and introduction to workshops

Chair: Maria de Donato, CIR

Speakers: Marc Schade-Poulsen

Marit Flø Jørgensen, Program Director

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- 16.30-18.30** Workshops*:
• Justice
• Migration and Refugees
• Gender
**For content detail, please see in concept note available at the secretariat*
- 20.30** Dinner **offered by the Town Hall of Barcelona at the Centre Civic Pere Pruna**

Day 3, December 13 (Saturday)

- 9.00-11.00** Workshops*:
• Human Rights Education
• Palestine, Israel and Palestinians
• Freedom of Association

**For content detail, please see in concept note available at the secretariat*
- 11.30-12.30** Presentation and discussion of concept paper on working groups
Chair: Moataz El Fegiery, CIHRS, member of the Executive Committee
Presentation: Eva Norström
- 12.30-13.30** Presentation of candidates for the Executive Committee (opening of voting boxes between 13.30 and 16.30)
Chair: Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation
Hayati Yasamsal, Rights and Freedom Association
- 15.00-17.15** Discussion and adoption of the Statutes
Chair: Madjid Benchikh, Individual member
Anne-Laurence Lacroix, OMCT
Presentation: Michel Tubiana, LDH, Member of the Executive Committee
- 17.30-18.00** Announcements of election results
Chair: Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation
Hayati Yasamsal, Rights and Freedom Association

Day 4, December 14 (Sunday)

- 9.00-10.00** Reports from the workshops
Chair: Magali Thill, ACSUR
- 10.00-11.00** Adoption of work program and budget
Chair: Kamel Jendoubi
- 11.30-13.00** Adoption of General Assembly Declaration
Chair: Mokhtar Trifi, LTDH
- 14.30-17.30** EMHRF Meeting of Council of Representatives

Appendix 2: Minutes of General Assembly 2006, Madrid

Summary of decisions and main recommendations from the EMHRN 7th General Assembly in Madrid 12-14 May 2006

The following is a summary of the decisions taken by the EMHRN 7th GA in Madrid 12-14 May 2006 as well as a summary of the main recommendations and observations made during the GA.

The summary is structured according to the agenda of the EMHRN 7th GA meeting:

- Presentation of and vote on reports (political report, activity report, and financial report)
- Presentation of and vote on new EMHRN members (regular, individual, associate) and auditor
- Presentation and discussion of EMHRN strategy (hereunder short summary of the outcomes of the workshops on the strategy on democracy, human security, and methodologies) and vote on the strategy
- Presentation and discussion of EMHRN work program and budgets and vote (including short summary of the outcome of the workshops on women's rights; human rights education and youth; justice; and freedom of association)
- Election of the new Executive Committee

PRESENTATION OF AND VOTE ON REPORT

The political report, the activity report as well as the financial report were presented to the GA.

The following decisions and recommendations were put forward:

- The reports were generally welcomed and voted for (Financial report: 31 votes (unanimously), Activity report: 31 votes (unanimously), Political report: 23, abstentions 6, 0 against)
- The new auditors (Deloitte) were unanimously approved

POINTS FROM THE DEBATES IN THE PLENARY

ON MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE EMHRN

- Suggestions on improving internal and external communication within the Network and between working groups
- Suggestions on exploring possible fundraising in the south and on the relation between general fundraising for the Network and specifically for the working groups

ON PLANNING AND STRATEGY

- To ensure gender mainstreaming
- To ensure the balance between work on the Mashrek and Maghreb
- To ensure a balance between social, economic and cultural rights and political and civil rights in EMHRN work
- To continue our work on migration
- To make serious efforts to involve young people in the work of the Network

ON POLITICAL ISSUES

- To deal with the ongoing question of double standards (especially in relation to the EU and Israel/Palestine)
- To stress the importance of the autonomy of civil society
- To continue the debate on striking the balance between the respect for human rights and the fight against terrorist acts
- To continue to deal with issues of Islamophobia and xenophobia

RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIPS

The following membership applications were approved by the GA:

As regular members:

- ACSUR, Spain: 30 votes
- Al-Mizan, Gaza: 29 votes
- Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, Jordan: 28 votes
- Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH), Morocco: 31 votes
- Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD), Tunisia: 31 votes
- Collective of Families of Disappeared in Algeria , Algeria: 31 votes
- Federation of Associations for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, Spain: 29 votes
- Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM), The Netherlands: 28
- Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT), Denmark : 30

As Individual members:

- Jon Rud, Lawyer, Norway: 31
- Georges Assaf, Lebanon: 30
- Negad El-Borai; Egypt: 24

Associated members:

- Iraqi Human Rights Society, Denmark: 27
- Foundation for International Studies, Malta: 29
(Following discussion of the autonomy of the Foundation for International Studies (as it was written that it is semi-governmental) and the request by the Iraqi Human Rights Society to become full members)

Ceasing of membership of:

- Danish Helsinki Committee, Denmark
- Italian Helsinki Committee, Italy
- Hans Kjellund, DK
- Moncef Marzouki, Tunisia
- Mohammed Tahri, Algeria
- Philip Rudge, UK

Approved (no objections)

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF EMHRN STRATEGY (here under short summary of the outcomes of the workshop on democracy, human security, and methodologies) and vote on the strategy

The GA was presented with a proposal for an EMHRN strategy 2006-2010. A short initial discussion followed, where the GA expressed its general satisfaction with the strategy. Workshops on democracy, human security and methodologies were held to discuss the strategy in more details. The following main recommendations were made:

- The GA welcomed and generally endorsed the proposed strategy
- The GA strongly suggested to change the term 'human security' to the 'security of human beings'
- It was proposed to set up an ad hoc working group on the EMHRN strategy to define approaches to the EU and bilateral relations in order to ensure that actual decisions made are concretized and implemented
- It was stressed that it is important to secure sufficient funds and thereby enable the working groups to continue their activities.

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS

Workshop on 'strategic entry points to promote democracy in the Euro-Med region on the basis of human rights'.

The aim of the workshop was to explore the meaning of human rights and democratisation – especially in the fields of justice, freedom of association, women's rights and human rights education – and to explore how these issues relate to each other.

The following suggestions for the EMHRN were made:

- To work on freedom of association (on the bases that this right is not legally established but only tolerated and that the executives often interfere in the functioning and activities of the organisations)
- To work on the independence on the judiciary (on the bases of the failure of the judicial systems in the region to fulfil their roles and interference from the executive)
- To define clearly the values upon which we base our work and how these relate to the issues of cultural diversity and specificities
- To emphasise the importance of socio-economic and cultural rights along with civil and political rights in order to restore respect for democracy among the people in the region
- To focus on not only legal reform but also on implementation of laws
- To fight the double standards – i.e. that agreement signed by the EU and the Southern Partner countries provide for respect for human rights, but at the same time the Western countries support authoritarian regimes in the South and do not respect free elections as in Palestine and the coming to power of Hamas. That discredits the fight for democracy and human rights
- To discuss more the dialogue with and integration of Islamists in the democratisation dialogue
- To discuss more reform initiatives from inside and outside and how they interrelate
- To integrate gender mainstreaming bearing the patriarchal context of the region into mind

Workshop on 'strategic entry points to promote human security in the Euro-Med region on the basis of human rights – especially in the field of the conflicts and migration

The aim of the workshop was to explore the concept of 'human security' and to agree on the main issues to be dealt with within this framework.

The following suggestions for the EMHRN were made:

- To keep the suggestions for priorities within this field
- To change the term 'human security' to 'security of human beings'
- To recognize it as multi-dimensional concept that includes empowerment and citizenship
- The concept of security of the human being does not replace human rights but needs to be rooted in human rights
- To reiterate that the aim of 'security of human beings' is to reduce the risks of people, and especially vulnerable groups and to empower vulnerable people
- To recall that not only states but also other actors are duty bearers in relation to 'global security of human beings'
- To recall that we need to look at causes and not only the results of the lack of 'global security of human beings'

Workshop on 'networking, solidarity, advocacy, lobbying and partnership: how to reinforce it?'

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the EMHRN strategy in relation to the EMHRN methodologies – and to discuss how to reinforce networking, solidarity, advocacy, lobbying and partnership.

The following recommendations were made in relation to:

NETWORKING/PARTNERSHIPS

- Networking and alliance building are really important in order to achieve changes
- Ensure ownership and equal partnerships for networking
- The challenge for the EMHRN is to make local issues become a regional responsibility
- The EMHRN is rather a facilitator and a supporter and should not duplicate the work of its members

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- The experience of the EMHRN in working on the ENP with our Egyptian members was a very good experience of creating synergies
- Reinforce the work of groups working on freedom of movement which is essential in relation to networking and making civil society representatives meet

WORKING GROUPS

- The dynamics of the working groups should be further developed
- Synergies between working groups are very important
- A responsible for coordination between working group should be appointed
- Suggestion that the working groups make a newsletter 3-4 times a year to inform about their activities to be distributed to all EMHRN members
- Suggestion to have a meeting of all working groups once a year to exchange information and experiences of work
- Suggestion to present the work of the working groups at the GA

MEDIA

- Each member should strengthen relations with the media and inform the media about the EMHRN
- Ensure the presence of the media at the EMHRN meetings (questions on why no media was present at the GA)
- Suggestion to choose a theme and work elaborately on it for one year
- Suggestion to appoint a 'media contact point' in our member organisations who will be in contact with the media coordinator to be employed in Brussels in autumn 2006
- We should try to influence the media regarding relations between the EU and the Partner States – this is the added value of the Network

LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

- Information and communication are essential for lobbying – therefore a communication strategy has to be developed defining who is responsible for what
- We need to discuss how to mobilize our members, especially in relation to engaging our members in the South to lobby the EU institutions and our members in the North to lobby their governments
- We need to see how we can integrate the thematic issues on the multi-lateral level and translate them into issues to be lobbied for on the bilateral level
- We should also work on the EU member states (not only EU institutions) which requires that we get our organizations in the North involved
- We need to work more on parliaments – both national parliaments and the EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly
- We need to make the EMHRN lobbying more visible

TRAINING

- We need more training on the EU
- We need to brainstorm on how to integrate gender and youth in our training

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE EMHRN WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGETS AND VOTE (including short summary of the outcome of the workshops on women's rights; human rights education and youth; justice; and freedom of association)

The GA was presented with a proposal for an EMHRN work plan 2006-2008. A short initial discussion followed, where the GA expressed its general satisfaction with the work plan. Workshops on freedom of association; justice; human rights education and youth, and women's rights and gender were held to discuss the strategy in more details. The following main recommendations were made:

- The GA generally endorsed the work plan and the budget for 2006-2008 and adopted work plan and budget by unanimous vote

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- It was recalled to include gender mainstreaming in all EMHRN work
- It was suggested to include work on racism and minorities
- It was suggested to hire a fundraising officer and include that in the budget
- It was suggested to create a working group to draw on the experiences from Eastern Europe (especially the OSCE process and the Helsinki processes)
- It was suggested to extend the membership of working groups to other actors working in the field

Workshop on freedom of association

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the EMHRN project on freedom of association which will produce annual reports on this right. The following recommendations were made:

SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

- The thematic scope of the review should be clearly defined and if possible narrowed down – Should only NGOs be involved? What about trade unions?
- EU countries should also be included in the review as there is much inter-linkage between the situation in the South and in the North. In this regard, the Network should be aware of and monitor the work which is currently done by the EU (and the USA) to elaborate a Code of conduct for NGOs.

METHODOLOGY

- It is important to carefully check the trustworthiness of the sources of information used to design the indicators.
- The indicators should be based on objective human rights standards rather than on democracy, as certain concepts are complicated to define – for example there is no definition of ‘terrorism’.
- Indicators should be carefully weight as they do not have the same importance.
- It is necessary to take into account and, if needed, to use the indicators which have already been defined by other institutions.
- The indicators, and thus the review as a whole, should take into consideration gender and minorities issues.
- Would it be more effective to first define indicators and then draft the review or to start by drafting national report and on the basis of these to identify common generic denominators? In both cases, experts in the fields of human rights impact measurement should be included in the drafting process.
- Including a country ranking in the review is a good strategy in terms of media and lobbying. However, in order to be useful and credible, such ranking needs to be carefully done.

Workshop on justice

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the EMHRN project on justice including the conduct of 4 national meetings presenting and discussing the EMHRN report on *Justice in the South and East of the Mediterranean* as well as one regional meeting. The workshop did not so much focus on concrete recommendations to the project but made general recommendations to the EMHRN work on justice:

ON THE OBJECTIVES/THE MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- We should support the judges who work for the independence of the judiciary
- There will never be ‘good justice’ without the presence of independent lawyers
- Independence of the prosecution is fundamental

ON THE LINES OF WORK

- The Network should work on every day justice
- The issue of transitional justice becomes more and more important
- The Network should continue to work on penal justice which is what most organizations already do, but should also work on civil justice, where women’s rights are often violated

DIRECT ACTIONS

- Support the judges defending their rights (such as in Egypt). Not only in their own right but also because this will have an impact on the whole region

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- Take the lead in supporting the establishment of a regional union of Arab judges (magistrates)

Regarding the current EMHRN project on Justice, participants had the following observations:

- Questions regarding the choice of the four countries for the national seminars
- Questions in relation to the feasibility to convene meetings on justice in some countries, e.g. Tunisia, and suggestion a sub-regional meeting instead in e.g. Morocco
- Stressing that the report should not be an aim in itself but a means/instrument (for lobbying etc)

Workshop on human rights education and youth

The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss the EMHRN project on human rights education and youth, which include a survey of member organizations activities within the field of human rights education and youth as well as planning and convening a summer school on HRE and youth and establishing an alumni network.

The following expectations and recommendations were put forward:

- Try to involve youth organisations in the Network as there are no youth organisations members currently
- Development of ideas, material development, training in HRE facilitation, HRE, strategies, mainstreaming, etc.
- Discuss how to market and sell the idea of human rights as we sell other products, target university students and pupils in schools.
- Sharing experiences, work towards political parties to have human rights included in curricula to get specifically to youth. Producing material for trainers.
- Developing medium and long-term strategies to obtain results.
- Capacity-building of local organisations working in HRE, to change curricula. Not only talk about summer school but think about summer camps for youth.
- Possibilities for bilateral projects, working with partners that we would not otherwise have worked with.
- Work on popular education methodologies

Workshop on women's rights and gender mainstreaming

The aim of the workshop was to introduce the concept of 'gender mainstreaming' and to discuss the EMHRN project on women's rights and gender mainstreaming.

The following recommendations and challenges were put forward:

- To translate Rabéa Naciri's presentation on gender mainstreaming and distribute it to members and make it available on the EMHRN website
- To acknowledge that gender mainstreaming is an economic and cost efficient approach that should be integrated in all actions and projects. If the Network succeeds in doing that it will play an educational role for all its member organisations
- To make a training session for the EMHRN members on gender mainstreaming
- To share the experience of the AMDH on how to promote women and gender mainstreaming with the whole Network
- To have a session in plenary at the next GA on gender mainstreaming
- The challenge of women's rights organisations is to make men and generalist organisations interested in joining the debate and advocacy
- The challenge for the Network is not to 'compartmentalize' women's rights to be the business of women's rights organizations exclusively but to integrate women and a gender perspective in all its work

ELECTION OF THE NEW EMHRN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following persons were elected to the EMHRN executive committee with the following votes (out of 45 present with voting right):

	Yes	No	Abstention
Kamel Jendoubi (elected as President in a separate vote)	39	0	6
Wadih Al Asmar	26		
Nizam Assaf	28		
Nina Atallah	37		
Iain Byrne	36		
Maria de Donato	39		
Moataz El Feigiery	28		
Birgit Lindsnæs	37		
Rabea Naciri	37		
Eva Norström	42		
Colm Regan	38		
Michel Tubiana	35		

Appendix 3: Political Report

Moral Report

By Kamel Jendoubi

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends

Human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law – all of which, officially, are essential components of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership – are linked, one might even say subservient, more than ever to security and economic imperatives. That, at any rate, is the conclusion that one can draw about the relations between EU member states and Mediterranean partner countries over the past two years. This assessment is confirmed by the very hesitant approach adopted by the EU towards violations of civil and political freedoms – a stance that is reinforced by the terrorist threat – as well as towards the weakening of social and economic rights caused by free trade, and more recently, last but not least, by the financial and economic crisis.

This oft-repeated conclusion, pessimistic and dismaying though it may be, has not discouraged human rights defenders from promoting fundamental rights and from condemning widespread violations committed in the region, even as defenders are more and more systematically faced with increased repression on a daily basis.

CHALLENGES

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The fight for human rights and democracy is a long and protracted struggle that must constantly be waged anew as new challenges emerge.

The state of Israel was created six decades ago, and the last four of these decades have been marked by Israel's occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories. During those forty years, the state of Israel, in direct contravention of international law, has flagrantly and systematically violated human rights and the national rights of the Palestinian people. Deadly confrontations among Palestinians are a new challenge to which we are called upon to respond.

The attacks against the movement in favour of democratic reform in the Arab countries represent another challenge. The weakening of international support for reform has been no less evident than the chaotic policy of intervention marking the period that followed the criminal attacks of September 2001. Democratic agendas have been set aside and all reform initiatives have been abandoned – especially since the United States' loss of influence, due in particular to the Iraq war of occupation – giving way to a vision of long-term security under international protection. The European countries, mainly preoccupied with migrations and the war on terror, argues that these concerns justify their pragmatic approach and explain the low profile of concerns about human rights and democratic reforms, as well as their inaction in the face of egregious human rights violations. They have been content with making moral commitments while holding an erroneous view of Arab regimes, which they see as willing to acknowledge the need for reform. The EU argues that it is not responsible for changing the governance structures of its partner countries, and has used this alibi to abstain from making interventions that were warranted in human rights matters. To all this must be added the emergence of new international actors – such as China, Iran and Russia – who have no democratic agenda for the region.

But the hardest blows against democratic reforms come from the Arab regimes themselves, which persist in closing off political life as a means of preventing the development of democratic alternatives: bogus elections, laws aimed at restricting associations and the media, the preservation of a subservient and dependent judiciary, etc.

At the same time, the Arab regimes have been able to manipulate the situation by adopting a stance claiming to incorporate the need for reform (see the different resolutions adopted by the Arab summits). They have reacted favourably to the offer of different programmes of financial support for democratisation, taking advantage of this financial bonanza to consolidate their political and financial position. By highlighting the 'cultural specificity' of Arab societies and advocating a gradual, step-by-step approach to reforms, they have been able to take advantage of the contradictions between the positions of the United States and the European Union. Above all, they have sought to spread doubt in the international community by invoking the threat of Islamic radicalism while at the same time encouraging hostile religious sentiment against the West's so-called 'crusade'. Using the rights of women and the right to development as a pretext, they have maintained all forms of police repression, harassment and smothering, in particular through media campaigns aimed at discrediting those who promote democratic reforms, while never, or almost never, undertaking reforms that have been promised and never completed.

The Arab League is an important link in the coordination of assaults on crucial areas by the Arab states. In addition to the war on terror, in which Interior Affairs ministers dominate within the context of the Arab Convention Against Terrorism, information and communication have become favourite areas of intervention by the Arab Information ministers. The Arab League has also focused its efforts on using religion to change international human rights standards by insisting that universal human rights principles must be tempered by concerns about cultural differences and about the specific characteristics of countries, and by skilfully invoking xenophobic and islamophobic attacks against Muslims in Europe.

The setbacks experienced by reform movements in the region are another feature of the situation in Arab countries. In part, these setbacks are due to the repression and harassment to which these movements have been subjected. Another factor is the lack of encouragement and support by democratic countries and institutions around the world, especially by the EU. However, the main reason for this failure to advance lies in the structural weakness of the groups who seek to promote democratic reforms. By devoting the bulk of their efforts to their own survival, the actors of democratic change can only spend little energy on defending the rights of people, thus isolating themselves from the population and, in particular, cutting themselves off from young people. The situation of NGOs has also deteriorated because they are undermined by deep, bruising divisions and are in competition among themselves.

At the same time, the influence of religious and extremists movements continues to grow. The few relatively free elections that have taken place in recent years have drawn attention to the growing power of Islamist groups. These results have often been seen as the expression by voters of the overall failure of the corrupt regimes in place. Popular support for Islamist movements has continued to grow nonetheless, thanks to the strength of religious sentiment, leading the region's regimes to use religion as an tool in their repressive policies.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

The violent expansion of sectarianism and tribalism in the region (the Sunni/Shia rivalry, the conflicts in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt) contributes to the concerns created by the growth in terrorist forces.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The debate on the clear and shared vision that the EMHRN must have towards human rights in the region has been at the core of our meetings and activities since the Network was founded. The Madrid General Assembly represented a major step in this process because it allowed us to adopt a strategy based on the key values and the vision of the EMHRN:

The mission of the EMHRN is to promote and strengthen human rights and democratic reform within the framework of the Barcelona process and EU- Arab cooperation frameworks. Thanks to its deep roots in civil society, the Network seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the EuroMed region, disseminate the values of human rights and generating capacity in this regard. As such, the EMHRN's vision is to develop into a regional forum for human rights NGOs and become a major regional source of expertise, raising awareness of human rights and democratic reform.

The Network's key objectives include the following¹:

- *to pro-actively support and publicise the universal principles and standards of human rights in the Partner States and the whole of the Middle Eastern region and to actively highlight the abuse of rights from any source;*
- *to critically engage with all dimensions of the Barcelona Process and to maintain a critical stance on the EU's own performance in this regard, especially in its dealings with participating states from the South;*
- *to support the development of democratic institutions alongside the promotion of the rule of law, the equality of men and women, public education and awareness as well as human rights education per se;*
- *to strengthen, assist and co-ordinate the efforts of its members to monitor compliance with human rights, as well as to promote them amongst the Partner states, especially in contexts where such rights are systematically abused or denied;*
- *to set up and support necessary structures and procedures to achieve the above.*

The Network recognises the significant gap between the rhetoric of the Barcelona Declaration as regards human rights, the realities of the Barcelona Process and the situation in many countries of the region. The Network is committed to critical engagement with these issues and challenges both in the North and in the South. (Extracts from the EMHRN Strategy Paper adopted by the Madrid GA)

The conclusions drawn by our last General Assembly about the human rights situation in the EuroMed region essentially reflect the same situation today. The emergence of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) reflects the dominant view in the EU that democratic reforms and human rights are not priority issues. This view mirrors that of the autocratic regimes in place, which are trying to trade their support for the UfM against the silence of EU countries about human rights violations. By emphasising 'political dialogue' at the highest level and on a regional basis, the Union for the Mediterranean seeks to provide a new political goal for the Barcelona Process and complement the ENP (at the bilateral level), but there are two important missing elements: civil society actors and human rights. The terms of cooperation defined by President Sarkozy during his visit to Tunisia reveal a mercantile and arrogant vision, tainted with a feeling of superiority and even racism: 'You have a workforce that needs only to be trained, we have a great deal of intelligence and training.... Together, with your manpower, with our schools, with our universities and with what we will trade, we can create a model that will succeed worldwide'!

¹ See EMHRN Statutes.

What seemed particularly revolting and shocking was the claim that such a policy would serve the cause of human rights, even stating that the 'space of freedom' is growing in Tunisia, a country where everything shows the opposite is taking place. It was as if the speaker wanted to give a lesson to those Tunisians who are fighting for democracy and the promotion of human rights, and to tell them that they were better off in a regime such as the one they are subjected to than under the Taliban. As if the only choice available to them was between an authoritarian regime bent on stifling rights and freedoms and the fundamentalism of the Taliban.

We must therefore continue to promote, both bilaterally and multilaterally, a human rights approach that is based on the inseparable and universal nature of human rights, and to provide for an ongoing, structural consultation with civil society. We must also emphasise the need to attach benchmarks and deadlines to actions so that progress or shortfalls can be measured against international human rights standards rather than assessed on the basis of purely political criteria applied by governments alone. We are responsible for taking advantage of the opportunities that arise to build alliances and coalitions, while at the same time taking into account the diversity of situations among countries. And finally, we must encourage the EuroMed partners to strive for the highest standards in human rights rather than look for the lowest common denominators, which inevitably lead to a lasting decline in respect for human rights.

The Strategy Document adopted by the Madrid General Assembly defined two sets of priorities: human rights and democracy; and human rights and the security of human beings.

The General Assembly provides an opportunity to update our strategic orientations in light of the actions that were taken, the progress that was made and the weaknesses that were observed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROGRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

In 2007, the EMHRN celebrated its tenth anniversary, thus demonstrating, in a complex environment, the relevance of the bottom-up approach. The Network's presence also confirms the importance and the need for a direct partnership between NGOs of the South and those of the North, working together to achieve a common agenda in an atmosphere of cooperation despite the challenges and difficulties, and despite the diversity of perceptions, opinions and organisational cultures.

The Activity Report will describe in detail the EMHRN's achievements since the last General Assembly. The Executive Committee wishes to emphasise the successes that give meaning to our actions.

The EMHRN continues to contribute to the presence of human rights issues in every forum. The Network has enhanced its institutional presence; has become a recognised structure; has developed, through the publication of various reports that provide real value, an expertise that has become a reference; and has demonstrated a certain capacity of intervention through the creation of, and support to, the EMHRF. The Network's team and Secretariat are highly professional and highly devoted. The EMHRN has also shown it can manage the renewal of leadership in a region where such renewal is difficult. The Network has decentralised some of its key activities to countries of the South (gender issues in Jordan, migration and asylum in Morocco).

Working groups are the engines of our Network. They have helped our members to get involved on priority issues (more than 100 defenders worked in collaboration during the period under review). They have gone through a period of experimentation that must be assessed by the General Assembly, in particular to strengthen our achievements and to clarify the roles of each individual within the WGs. We also seek constantly to improve the effectiveness of the work of the WGs and to enhance the participation of our members by enriching the nature of their tasks on a continuing basis, both within and outside the Network.

The EMHRN's advocacy work has expanded, in particular in Brussels, where we have a high-quality team working in an environment that remains characterised by the lack of a EuroMed regional mechanism for the promotion and monitoring of human rights rooted in standards that have been universally recognised and officially adopted by all countries concerned. This environment raises questions about the meaning of the

political dialogue between EU and partner countries. Have the EU's positive incentives, in particular those provided in the ENP action plans, provided guarantees? Can it not be said that, in fact, they have narrowed the focus of the dialogue on human rights to an emphasis on security issues?

Communication has been the focus of a significant investment by the EMHRN, resulting in greater visibility; this will be reinforced by the implementation of the communication plan and an increase in resources. In addition, the EMHRN has adopted and published an important position paper on migration and asylum issues, and has completed a range of partnership activities, in particular in the context of the EuroMed NGO Platform.

The amendments to the statutes that will be discussed by the General Assembly are the outcome of a process that began at the Madrid GA. They do not in any way change the fundamental principles of the Network. Rather, they simply represent a recognition that many amendments adopted in the past 10 years have resulted in some inconsistencies. The proposed amendments will simplify the text and clarify provisions in light of the experience gained by the EMHRN.

SHORTCOMINGS

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The EMHRN's work is also marked by shortcomings and limitations. We continue to suffer from the lack of a proactive membership policy that would enable us to strengthen and diversify our presence not only in the South but also in the North, in particular in the new EU member states. We must also decide the maximum number of members the Network should have to ensure proper governance.

We have difficulties in engaging discussions with our members, who do not seem to give enough consideration to the EuroMed dimension at the level of each country. The lack of interest and response may be due to a lack of knowledge of the Partnership machinery (which, admittedly, is very complex), and this has led us to give greater emphasis to training and exchanges. However, the perceptible disappointment of some members about their actual impact on the countries may also be a factor contributing to an attitude of withdrawal and even mistrust. This has more to do with the question of political debate within the Network. Let us take this opportunity to mention the experiment carried out by our members in Morocco, who have put in place a follow-up group. This, it seems to us, is an excellent practice that could be applied in other countries.

We have also been faced with situations of internal conflict and divisions within some member organisations.

The political impact of the Network's activities remains inadequate in that we suffer from a lack of response relative to current developments. The dialogue with governments is still at the embryonic stage in the case of EU member countries, and virtually non-existent in the case of the partner countries.

Our approach seems to be more technical and organisational, focused on management (an abundance of resources but with little visibility), whereas it should be more focused on advocacy work, which requires fewer resources and has a more visible impact.

Some important shortcomings have emerged in our operations, in particular with respect to hiring (accountant), to the choice of consultants and researchers, to the use of reports and to translations. We must give more thought to reducing the pressure on the Secretariat staff, who are doing a wonderful job, and to strengthening its capacities and its skills.

Our linkages with international human rights NGOs remain spotty and limited. Coordinated activity on the situation in the region is either weak or totally lacking. As well, our relations with research institutions and actors remain very limited.

PROSPECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The EMHRN must consider the changes that have taken place and re-examine its priorities by updating the strategic orientation adopted by the Madrid GA. There is also a need to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by the promotion of a human rights culture, linked to the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and to the struggles against poverty, injustice and disparities.

The EC recommends/proposes reinforcing the consistency of the Network's action:

- There is a need to remobilise our members in the WGs, to develop solidarity and improve the treatment and monitoring of priority thematic areas (gender, freedom of association, education, justice, migrations and asylum, Palestine-Israel, etc.).
- The WGs must serve the Network's strategy by adopting a regional approach (with monitoring and reporting based on a few relevant indicators and by defining expected outcomes as well as prospects (synthesis and recommendations). In addition, we must strengthen the monitoring function by expanding our capacity to react to major events, to undertake campaigns, to disseminate information and to organise solidarity actions, missions and communications activities.
- We must also adopt a cross-cutting approach in communications and advocacy activities both at the Community (Brussels) and at the country level, with governments and with the United Nations and the Arab League. Communication must become a priority, and the goal must be to ensure that our message reaches the media in the North and the South.
- The goals of the WGs are thus clarified: analysis/knowledge, monitoring, reporting, follow-up, advocacy and solidarity.
- As well, we must be part of all initiatives aimed at supporting and protecting human rights defenders in the Arab world, in particular by strengthening links with international NGOs (Brussels, Geneva and Washington) and those active at the regional level.
- The promotion of an equitable peace in the Middle East a major priority for the Network, as a means of protecting collective and individual rights of Palestinians.
- Our activities in support of gender equality must be developed and expanded further, and we must put in place an action strategy aimed at the young.
- An urgent priority must be given to the work on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights.
- It is important to develop a financial strategy that will provide funding that is both adequate and diversified to support activities that are decided upon in line with strategic priorities. (Qualitative development (expertise) and international dimension (funding sources outside Europe).
- Finally, there must be an ongoing effort to improve the abilities and skills of the Secretariat, from the point of view of knowledge about the environment, of professional development (training, skills upgrading, etc.) and of effectiveness (project management, resource function for the WGs, etc.).

I look forward to a successful completion of our work.

Thank you.

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

Barcelona December 12-14 2008

1.Summary of the Activity Report	57
2.Introduction	60
3.The General Assembly.....	61
4.Developments following the General Assembly.....	63
5.Networking.....	64
5.1 Working groups.....	64
5.2 Human Rights and Democratisation	65
5.2.1 Freedom of Association (FOA)	65
5.2.2 The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary	70
5.2.3 Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming.....	75
5.2.4 Human Rights Education	79
5.3 Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings.....	83
5.3.1 Palestine, Israel and Palestinians	83
5.3.2 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers	87
5.3.3 Economic and social rights	93
6.Communication	95
7.Solidarity	97
8.Training	101
9.Advocacy and dialogue	103
10.Partnerships	109
11.Executive Bodies and memberships.....	113
12.EMHRN membership applications and resignations.....	116
13.Administration	117
14.Annexes.....	120
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 1: Presentation of new members	120
a. Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies, Syria.....	120
b. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus.....	122
c. AMERA, United Kingdom.....	123
d. Kvinna till Kvinna, Sweden.....	125
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 2: Organizational chart.....	127
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 3: Members of the working groups.....	128
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 4: List of donors.....	130
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 5: List of media quotes:.....	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 6: Publications:.....	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Annex 7: Press releases and statements:.....	132

1. Summary of the Activity Report

Introduction

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

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

Human Rights and Democratisation

Freedom of association

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

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

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

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

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

Justice

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

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

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

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

Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

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

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

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

Human Rights Education

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

Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

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

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

The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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

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

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

Economic and Social Rights

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

Membership Support

Communication

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

Solidarity

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

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

Training

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

Advocacy and dialogue

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

Partnerships

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

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

Executive Bodies and memberships

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

Administration

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

2. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

3. The General Assembly

Output of General Assembly

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

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

The EMHRN GA was followed-up by the first meeting of the Council of Representatives of the EuroMed Foundation for the Support of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), established by the EMHRN in 2004 following a General Assembly decision (Malta). The Council of Representatives is composed of regular, associate and individual members of the EMHRN2.

The work program adopted at the General Assembly took its point of departure in the fact that the EuroMed region is still plagued by severe problems: conflicts and war; regular and systematic violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and democratic principles; erosion of civil and political rights; structural problems within the judiciaries; lack of institutional capacity to sustain reform such as women's participation in public life; exclusion of youth from decision-making; increased barriers to migration and human exchange having serious effects on rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, etc.

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

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

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

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

Concerning Human Rights and Democratisation:

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

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

Concerning the Security of Human Beings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice president	Eva Norström
Treasurer	Nizam Assaf
<i>Political referents:</i>	
Freedom of Association	Birgit Lindsnæs
Justice	Michel Tubiana
Women	Rabéa Naciri
Human Rights Education and youth	Colm Regan
Migration	Maria De Donato ³
Economic and social rights	Iain Byrne
Palestine, Israel and Palestinians	Nina Atallah

³ In January, Maria De Donato regretfully resigned from the Executive Committee

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

European Neighbourhood Policy	Moataz El Fegiery
Reform of statutes and internal rules	Iain Byrne and Michel Tubiana
Other special (Iraq, Syria, Gulf countries)	Nizam Assaf
Turkey	Eva Norström
Partnership	Michel Tubiana
EuroMed NGO Platform	
EuroMed Foundation for the	Kamel Jendoubi
Protection of Human Rights Defenders	
Danish NGO Network	Birgit Lindsnæs
Internal tasks:	
Relation with the members and recruitment	Kamel Jendoubi
Working Group referent	Eva Norström
Training programs	Nizam Assaf

The participants' evaluation of the General Assembly showed that a high degree of networking was undertaken by the participants as well as a high rate of satisfaction with the meeting⁴.

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

4. Developments following the General Assembly

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁴ The evaluation report is available at the EMHRN secretariat. Conclusions of the General Assembly and the adopted documents are available on the EMHRN's web site

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

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

Following the adoption of the strategy document and work program by the General Assembly the EMHRN launched a call for participation in its working groups with clear and transparent admission criteria. By the end of 2006, 95 human rights defenders⁵ were involved in the EMHRN's working groups. In the same period the EMHRN opened an antenna in Jordan and consolidated its antenna in Morocco (in addition to its office in Brussels) while developing a new organisational structure of the EMHRN secretariat.

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

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

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

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

5. Networking

5.1 Working groups

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output 2008

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

Activities

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

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

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

2006

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

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

2007

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

2008

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

5.2 Human Rights and Democratisation

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

5.2.1 Freedom of Association (FOA)

Objectives

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

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

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The project will involve:

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

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

Summary of achievements

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

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

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

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

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

- *Two meetings organised of the Working Group on Freedom of Association in Copenhagen and Brussels*
- *A first Annual report on Freedom of Association published researched, published and diffused widely*

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

Output 2008

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

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and discussed the project on Freedom of Association in the context of a specific workshop during the EMHRN General Assembly in May 2006.
- Following the general Assembly, and the publication of a Call for participation in June 2006 11 members were selected, and the Working group was operational as from October 2006 (see the detailed list of WG members in annex).
- Before the first meeting of the WG a Project Steering Group composed of EMHRN members and resource persons were set- up to get the projects going. Furthermore, two experts (Khémaïs Chamhari and Maria Ghantous) were identified to draft the first Annual Review.
- A meeting of the Steering Group and the researchers was organised in August 2006. At this meeting, the feasibility and practical organisation of drafting a report on the Freedom of Association was explored. The group launched the process of planning the content and the methodology of the Review, including proposing indicators to measure progress and set-back in individual countries in the South Mediterranean region⁶.
- The Steering Group meeting was followed by a separate one-day planning meeting between the Working Group coordinator and both researchers held in Paris in October 2006.
- In addition, in November 2006, the EMHRN co-organised, with the Foundation René Seydoux and the FEMEC, a workshop on Freedom of Association at the EuroMed Civil Forum in Marrakech (with a total of 350 participants), where the project was presented and discussed.

2007

- On 3-4 March 2007, the full Working Group on Freedom of Association met for the first time in Copenhagen.

⁶ Participants at the meeting were Ghassan Moukheiber (Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association, Lebanon), Khemais Chamhari (Consultant, Tunisia), Birgit Lindsnaes (Danish Institute for Human Rights Denmark), Iain Byrne (Human Rights Centre, Essex), Jan de Vries (Humanist Committee, Netherlands) plus EMHRN staff members.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- The working Group finalized the outline of the Review on Freedom of Association in the EuroMed Region and had thorough discussions on the methodology, the structure and content of this first annual review.
- This first meeting provided opportunities for participants to establish the first contacts. They strongly supported the drafting of a review and several debates took place on the recent events related to the freedom of association in the 11 countries covered by the WG.
- After the meeting the EMHRN decided to hire one rapporteur for each of the 11 East and South Mediterranean countries⁷. Due to the good quality of the reports, it was later decided to publish them on the EMHRN website
- From September to October 2007, the detailed research reports were summarized by Khémaïs Chammari and Marie Ghantous. Meanwhile, during summer 2007, an intern, Thibaut Guillet, had also been hired to draft a legal research on the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and on the situation of minorities with regard to freedom of association in Europe.
- The first EMHRN 'Review on Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region' was published in December 2007 and widely disseminated, both through hard copies and emails, among EMHRN members and civil society organisations at large, and to national and international institutions in the EuroMed region.

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

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

During the presentation before the European Parliament's Sub-Commission on Human Rights in December 2007, three human rights defenders⁸ also told about the situation they face in their respective countries.

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

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

⁷ With the generous support of EMHRN member, the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

⁸ Khémaïs Chammari (individual member), but also Moataz El Fegiery (Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Egypt) and Amina Bouayach (Moroccan Organizations for Human Rights, Morocco).

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

The working group members decided to disseminate the report before national constituencies and if possible, hold public meetings to give publicity to the report; it established a new Steering committee⁹ to prepare the outline for the next Review.

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

First half of 2008

- In 2008, the EMHRN issued press statements to assist Dimitras Panayote (Greek Helsinki Monitor) who was victim of harassment in Greece, as well as Mr Ethem Açıklan, Chairperson of the IHD branch in Adana, who had been arrested after attending to a meeting. The EMHRN (with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders) also expressed its relief after the withdrawal of the draft law on association in Jordan, which was particularly restrictive for NGOs.
- The EMHRN issued a joint press release with the Observatory to welcome the verdict issued on 30 March 2008 by the Egyptian judiciary, which allowed the Center for Trade Unions and Workers' Services (CTUWS) to continue its activities in Egypt. A statement was also issued to support Khémaïs Chammari, who was victim of acts of harassment at the airport of Tunis Carthage on April 10 2008.
- Meanwhile preparations began for the second annual report and the third WG meeting. A telephone meeting was organised with the steering group on 14 March 2008 during which it agreed to propose that the next Annual review, a part from updating on the situation in the region should focus on the impact of anti-terrorist measures on freedom of association and on the question of gender equality within FOA
- The third WG meeting took place in Cairo on 23-24 May. The meeting aimed at discussing: 1) the Review methodology and further steps when the Review was finalised; (2) how to react in cases of violation of Freedom of Association in the region; (3) the current situation Egypt and the potential initiatives that the EMHRN could undertake. It also included a meeting with Egyptian NGOs, inter alia the Egyptian NGO campaign on Freedom of Association; the CTUWS and AHRILA.
- The FOA WG also took an active part as co-organisers in the CIHRS meeting on Freedom of Association on 25 May. This meeting aimed at discussing the current situation in Egypt where a new law could be issued soon. The first EMHRN Review on Freedom of Association was presented and an alternative law on NGOs drafted by Judge El Bastawesy was presented and discussed.¹⁰ Dania Saoud from the CDF Syria informed about recent events in Syria while WG coordinator Thibaut Guillet made a short presentation on the 'Best practices related to Freedom of Association outside the Arab world'.
- Furthermore, on 24 May, EC member Moataz El Feghery and Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen met the Egyptian authorities who briefed them about ongoing legislative work on FOA and on anti-terrorism, in particular Mokhles Kotb, Secretary General of the National Council for Human Rights, Mofeed Shebab, State Minister for Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Councils and Councillor Mohamed Al Demerdash from the Social Solidarity Ministry.

⁹ I.e. Iain Byrne (Essex University, EMHRN EC member), Panayote Dimitras (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Amina Bouayach (Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme) and Maan Kheirbeik (CDF-SYria). Later, Yamina Rahou, Algerian League for Human Rights (and member of the Gender WG) was included in the group to ensure the integration of the gender approach.

¹⁰ During the workshop, an alternative law on NGOs was presented by Judge Hesham El Bastawesy on behalf of the CIHRS and serious concerns were raised about the plans of the Egyptian authorities to amend the current law in Egypt for the worse. Unfortunately, a dispute between [Judge Hesham El Bastawesy] and certain working group members arose when Article 3 of the draft law was discussed, whereby "no objectives of associations might be in contradiction with public order or morals". Some members expressed concern that this clause would not respect the rights of minorities, notably national and sexual minorities. A heated discussion took place over homosexuals' rights, causing several working group members to walk out in protest after recalling that the basic rights and freedoms in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applied to all individuals "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status", and as such no distinction could be made.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

5.2.2 The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary

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

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

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

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

Summary of Achievements

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

The EMHRN also produced a mapping of ongoing initiatives on the judiciary in the region and stimulated the writing of national reports. The reports will facilitate the organisation of new meetings in the countries mentioned above as well as new countries leading towards the general objective of initiating the

consolidation of networks and groups of actors in South and East Mediterranean societies who are able to influence the judiciaries.

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

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output 2008

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

Activities

2006

- The EMHRN presented and debated the Justice project at the General Assembly in May 2006 at a specific workshop.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

2007

- On 13-14 January the EMHRN organised a seminar in Amman dealing with the issue of the independence and impartiality of Jordan's Judiciary that was co-organised with the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS), member of the Justice WG. It was held under the patronage of and opened by the president of Jordan's High Judicial Council. The program included the following topics: The independence and impartiality of the judiciary; the independence and impartiality of the Jordanian judiciary: Problems and challenges; The role of the Jordanian judiciary in promoting and protecting human rights: achievements and obstacles; The current state of reforms regarding the Jordanian judiciary; For a national report on the independence of the judiciary in Jordan? Each session included one or several presentations with a large amount of time left for the debate.

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

The main aim of the Amman seminar – opening spaces for free dialogue on the issue of the independence in Jordan – was fulfilled. Participants discussed freely and openly a large number of issues affecting the

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

independence of the Jordanian judiciary, touching upon technical issues (training of judges, limited impact of reforms), but also political constraints (the preeminent role of the King; the interferences from the executive in a number of high-profile cases) and societal features (corruption, the tribal component of Jordanian society which impacts on the judiciary).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Seminar was held in Paris, as it due to state censorship could not be organised in Tunisia. It gathered

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

about 50 participants the first day and 35 the second day. The first day was held in a conference room within the French Senate. The participants were mainly lawyers and NGO representative from Tunisia as well as Tunisians based in France; representatives from various French ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), institutions (including judges association) and NGOs as well as representatives of international organisations (EU, UNDP). The Portuguese EU Presidency was represented through its embassy in Paris.

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

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

As an unexpected outcome, the hostile attitude of the Tunisian authorities¹¹, shows how difficult it is to openly and freely discuss matters related to the judiciary in Tunisia – and stresses therefore need to support any spaces for free dialogue, how tiny they might be. It is the assessment that the report on the independence and impartiality of the Tunisian judiciary produced by the WG in the aftermath of the seminar in Paris became a useful tool in that direction. However, in view of the pressure the local civil society is placed under, it is unlikely that large scale promotion and lobby activities regarding the issue of the independence of the judiciary can be developed and implemented in a near future.

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

- On 8-9 October 2007, the WG coordinator and Ms Sian Lewis Anthony, author of the Survey on Justice Reform Initiatives in the EuroMed Region, had a series of meetings at the European Commission in Brussels. These aimed at completing the information gathered by Ms Lewis Anthony for her Survey and, more generally, to meet Commission representatives dealing with the Justice issue in relation with the Southern Mediterranean countries. Meetings were held at EuropeAid, DG Relex and DG Justice, Liberties and Security.
- In the course of 2007, contacts were established and reinforced with magistrates, especially in Egypt, involved in developing a regional organisation of magistrates. These contacts and exchanges led to two of these magistrates being invited to attend the Brussels meetings in February 2008 (to which they were subsequently prohibited to attend).
- In 2007, contacts were made with a series of organisations or institutions, including MEDEL, International Association of Judges, International Commission of Jurists, UNDP (at various levels), Transparency International, and the UNHCHR. The aim of these contacts was to exchange information on respective Justice programs with the medium term objective to increase networking activities and develop the capacities of the WG. Some of these organisations have been asked to consider the possibility of becoming resource organisations for the Justice WG.

¹¹ Not only the authorities refused to cooperate, but the semi-official Association tunisienne des jeunes avocats (ATJA) insisted on attending the seminar, although they were not invited. Upon common agreement between the organisers and the other Tunisian participants, it was decided not to allow them to enter the conference room, as their main objectives were obviously to check on the other participants and to disturb the discussions.

- Preparations were made in the course of 2007 for a WG seminar to be held in Brussels in February 2008 together with a public seminar aimed at officially launching the four reports produced by the WG (see above). Contacts were made with various political groups within the EU Parliament for that purpose.

First half of 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Official contacts have been taken with the International Association of Judges (IAJ) and the International Commissions of Jurists (ICJ) with the purpose of establishing formal relationships between these organisations and the Justice working group. Contacts have also been made with other organizations or institutions, including the UNHCHR.
- The EMHRN attended the Euro-Mediterranean Seminar on ensuring respect for human rights while countering terrorism in accordance with international law, Prague, June 16-17.
The EMHRN is grateful for the support of SIDA, the EU Commission and Belgium's Ministry of Justice to its work on Justice in 2006 and 2007 (its work in the first half of 2008 is sponsored by DANIDA and SIDA)

5.2.3 Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

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

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

The **short term** objectives are to:

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

Summary of Achievements

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

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

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

Output 2006

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

2007

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

Gender mainstreaming kit finalised

First half of 2008

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

Activities

2006

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

The EMHRN published a follow-up report to its past publication on women in the EuroMed12 focussing on best practices in the region and entitled 'Achieving Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: Change is possible and necessary'. The report was disseminated to EMHRN members, the media and relevant persons at the EU institutions and EMP countries

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

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

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

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

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

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

2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First half of 2008

- In the first half of 2008 the antenna of the EMHRN was moved to EMHRN member Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)
- During that period the WG on Gender (through Fatma Boumaied) worked with the Working group on Migration and Refugees to ensure gender mainstreaming of the study on Violence against women in migration. Furthermore, the gender working group nominated a representative, Yamina Raho, to the Steering Committee on the report on Freedom of Association.
- A Concept Paper addressing the Network's initiative on follow-up and monitoring implementation of the Istanbul Action was finalised for fund raising purposes.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- A solidarity letter was prepared for Fatma Ksila, Secretary General of CRLDHT and a member of the Gender Working Group, and her friend, Samia Abbou member of the ALTLT, after they were brutally assaulted by the political police in Sousse, Tunisia, on 18 February 2008.
- An Open Letter commemorating 8 March was also drafted and addressed to the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner and ENP countries representatives.
- On 9-11 May the WG met in Cairo. During the meeting it discussed the developments and updates regarding women's rights and equality in the members' countries (France, Israel, Greece, Jordan, Tunisia, Finland, Morocco and Syria) and current projects and activities of members of the group, developments within the Euro-Med Partnership regarding gender; Tenders and calls for proposals addressing the implementation of Istanbul Action Plan; current EMHRN activities; Violence against migrant women Study and the Second EMHRN Review Report of Freedom of Association; the preparation process of the Shadow Report on monitoring implementation of Istanbul Action Plan; and the ways forward with regards to ongoing activities in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2.4 Human Rights Education

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

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

The **short term objective** is to:

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

Summary of Achievements

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output first half of 2008

- A working group meeting in Istanbul
- Coordinating meeting of NGOs organising Summer Schools in the EuroMed region
- Preparation of the third EMHRN Summer School in Istanbul initiated in cooperation with Turkish NGOs

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- Reports from the second Summer School and about NGO work on HRE in the EuroMed finalised

Activities

2006

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

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

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

2007

- The WG met again on 23-25 February in Malta and continued discussions of its mandate, and of the report on NGO HRE work in the region; it continued exchanges around HRE methodologies, and discussed the future Summer School through presentation of experiences of the Balkan Human Rights Network and MEDAC, Academy for Diplomatic studies; it also met representatives of the EuroMed youth platform.
- Regarding the Summer School a selection committee of participants was selected (Louis Frankenthaler (Public Committee against Torture), Antonia Papadopoulou (Greek Helsinki Monitor), Lubna Dawani (Sisterhood is Global Institute) and Mohammed Sarsak (Amman Center for Human Rights Studies). Antonia Papadopolous (Greek Helsinki Monitor) and David Cassar (MEDAC) were assigned the role of Summer school coordinators. Finally, a resource group (Valerie Duffy (80:20 Ireland), Natasha Shawarib (SIGI-Jordan), Aida Vesic and Snjezana Ivanic (BHRN) established a compilation of documents for a summer school resource.
- The '2007 Summer School' was held in Limassol, Cyprus from 23-29 July 2007. The EMHRN had received several hundred applications, in particular from the Arab World.
- The Summer School gathered 32 participants, 9 trainers, and 3 lecturers. 4 organisers from the Human Rights working group were in charge of the coordination of the event and the program. Most working group members were also present to train participants, meet participants and other human rights organisations. Finally, EMHRN members from other working groups and from the EMHRN Executive committee attended the Summer School as trainers.
- Before the meeting participants signed a Memorandum of understanding agreeing to undertake preparatory work for the Summer School, and fully participating in its agenda and follow up activities.
- Cypriots participants from the Turkish and Greek communities were invited to participate and exchange their different experiences and ideas; and a fieldwork local trip was organized to the Northern and Southern part of Cyprus in order to increase the participants' understanding of the situation in Cyprus and to meet with various human rights organisations active in the reconciliation process between the two communities.
- The Summer School program aimed at using interactive learning methodologies with a focus on equality in learning between trainers and participants; conferring also time for participants to share their work experiences and methodologies in the field of human rights in self conducted workshops.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- A specific session on follow-up was organised on the last day of the Summer School, during which participants and organisers discussed concrete and realistic follow-up activities, including the creation of a Yahoo group where alumni can stay in touch, exchange information about potential collaborations, and training, scholarships and internship opportunities;
- A summer school report called 'Tips for Future Summer Schools' and a Summer School evaluation report was published by the HRE and youth WG in November 2007.
- Finally a short documentary on the summer school was produced and launched on the EMHRN's web site. It was presented *inter alia* at the 'Evaluation Meeting of HRE sub regional training courses' organised by the Partnership Council of Europe- European Commission (EuroMed Youth) in Alexandria, 29-31 October 2007 in cooperation with the Swedish Institute and the Anna Lindh Foundation.
- Two representatives from Syria attended the summer school; based on the training methods delivered by the summer school a human rights training in Syria was organized by the CDF for 10 participants.
- Following the Summer School the WG met on 26-28 October in Ankara. The agenda included the evaluation of the summer school, discussion and recommendations for the next publications of the group and the next activities with regard to youth and HRE. The Working group welcomed new members at their meeting: Rita Rocca from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Nabil Dolmaye from the CDF and Omar Qadora from the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies.
- The working group members also met with Turkish human rights organisations and educators from the Human Rights Agenda Association, Amnesty International, Bilgi University, the IHOP platform and Community volunteers Foundation.
- Following the meeting a discussion paper on potential strategies to connect with youth in the region was drafted by EC member Colm Regan. The paper was sent to the WG members for their contributions and has launched a discussion within the EC about EMHRN work on young people which is still ongoing.
- On the basis of the field work and survey questionnaire on NGO HRE work in the EuroMed region done by researchers contracted in 2006 Valerie Duffy and Colm Regan (80:20 Acting for a better world, Ireland) were appointed by the working group to undertake the writing the final report.
- Meanwhile a Manual on Human Rights Education Training based on the Summer School had been commissioned from an expert in HRE. The Expert was present during the full duration of the Summer School. His main tasks included: having discussions and conducting interviews with the Summer School participants and trainers; participating to the workshops and; getting acquainted with the methodologies, trainings activities and exercises used during the Summer School;
- Due to delays linked to the non respect of contracts by the consultant the publication of the Human rights manual had to be postponed until the end of s2008.

First half of 2008

- The Human Rights Education and Youth working group meeting took place in Istanbul on 1-2 March. The main objectives were to plan for the coming activities, to identify means to support HRE culture and activities within the EMHRN, to explore engagements with youth workers and activists in the region and to prepare the 2008 Summer school. The HRE working group welcomed a new member: Mu'ayyad Mehyar who is in charge of HRE at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.
- It was decided that the Summer school would take place in Silivri, a district of [Istanbul](#) near the Marmara Sea in [Turkey](#), from July 21-28 2008, and should focus on Conflicts and its impact on Human Rights while being designed to share HRE methodologies. It was agreed to organise the Summer School with the Youth Unit at the Bilgi University, Community Volunteers, Women for Women's Human Rights and Amnesty International Turkey in close cooperation with the participation of the EMHRN member IHD (Human Rights Association). In order to do so, a full day meeting was organised with these organisations.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- A selection Committee (Omar Qadora, Baya Gacemi, Zahra Radwan and Antonia Papadopoulou) was elected and working group members agreed to take active part in all phases of preparation and running of the Summer School.
- A regional coordination meeting also took place with the participation of Summer School organisers in the EuroMed region, the EMHRN, the Balkan Network for Human Rights, 80:20, Medac and the CIHRS. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences and to explore areas for potential mutual co-operation and sharing.
- Meanwhile, discussions continued in the EC about the work of the EMHRN on young people and of the HRE WG in this regard. A discussion meeting was organised on 26 June with Kamel Jendoubi, Colm Regan, Amina Lemrini and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

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

5.3 Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

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

5.3.1 Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

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

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

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

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

Activities 2006-2007 according to Work Programme

The activity involves:

- Bi-annual working group meetings and strengthening the Working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians so that it becomes a key vehicle for human rights lobbying
- Researching and publicising an Annual Human Rights Review on the EU and Israel and developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved in the project to work on the EU institutions (their organisation and functioning) and their policies
- Advocating for the recommendations in relation to the EU institutions and individual members states and raising awareness about the centrality of human rights in solving the conflict and

ending occupation

- This core activity will be supplemented and supported by missions and reports when deemed relevant and activities with the general long term perspective of setting human rights at the heart of conflict prevention, management and solution.

Summary of Achievements

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output first half of 2008

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

2006

- The EMHRN launched the hard copy version of its second annual report on human rights in EU-Israel relations and promoted its findings during two advocacy tours in the Netherlands 2-5 April and Germany 5-8 April with the participation of EMHRN PIP WG members Orna Kohn (Adalah), Nina Attallah (Al-Haq), Lior

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Eliasaf-Gurfinkel (PCATI), review writer Susan Rockwell (Mattin Group, West Bank), and EMHRN coordinator Marita Roos. The mission to the Netherlands was coordinated with the United Civilians for Peace (UCP) and the team met with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MPs and civil society organisations. In Berlin the team met with representatives of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MPs, researchers and civil society organisations.

- Following these visits members of the PIP working group met in the margins of the General Assembly where a main item discussed was the drafting of a new shadow report for UCP concerning Israel's human rights behaviour including measuring of progress and set-back through indicators.
- The EMHRN was contacted informally by the Austrian Presidency before the first meeting of the informal EU-Israel Working Group on human rights in June. PIP WG members prepared some points which were passed to the Presidency, the Commission and other Member States before this meeting.
- On 9 June PIP WG members worked together to write an open letter on the occasion of the Association Council between the EU and Israel held on 13 June. The letter, signed by the EMHRN President, was directed to the foreign ministers of EU Member States, to Javier Solana and to the Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner. The EMHRN brought up 9 human rights issues in Israel and the OPT and made recommendations on each issue.
- On 16-18 June the WG met in Brussels where it – apart from its ordinary meeting - received training on the European Institutions and how to promote human rights within EU-Israel relations, and met with Commission and Council representatives.
- On 19 June Orna Kohn (Adalah), Jessica Montell (B'Tselem) and Moataz El Fegeiry (CIHRS) and Sandrine Grenier (EMHRN Brussels) appeared in a public hearing on "Human rights in the Neighbourhood Action Plans of Israel and Egypt" of the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament.
- During summer 2007 EMHRN secretariat in cooperation with the WG members drafted the shadow report on Israel's human rights behaviour and EMHRN members in Israel, the OPT, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Europe negotiated a joint statement on the War in Lebanon.
- Later, and following up on a mission to Lebanon (see below) the EMHRN (PIP coordinator Marita Roos, Birgit Lindsnæs, Danish Institute for Human Rights and EMHRN EC member and David Bondia Garcia (the Spanish Federation of Associations for Defence and Promotion of Human Rights) in cooperation with the FIDH (deputy secretary general, Sophie Bessis) sent at mission from 29 August to 2 September to Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip to show solidarity with its members and report on the human rights situation inside Israel and the OPT.
- A statement from the mission was issued on 15 November and the shadow report submitted to the UCP on 24 October. The latter had not been released by the end of the year as the Dutch Ministry had delayed its report on the situation in countries with which the EU has Association Agreements.
- The convener of the EMHRN PIP working group Stefan Lütgenau, participated in a meeting of the Israeli European Policy Network organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels on 23 November, while EMHRN Advocacy director held several meetings with the Aprovev representative in Brussels and representatives of the ECCP (the European Co-ordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine). Members of the EMHRN PIP WG also took an active part in the Civil Forum in Marrakech, November 2006.

2007

- The EMHRN PIP working group met in Berlin 23-25 February 2007. Among the points on the agenda were the preparation of a training seminar on the EU and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in April 2007, and the discussion and planning for the 3rd annual Human Rights review on EU-Israel relations.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First half of 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.3.2 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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

The **general objective** is to:

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

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

Summary of Achievements

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

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

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

Changes in initial planning are explained below.

Output 2006

- 2 Working group meetings (Casablanc and Amman)
- 2 expert reports on North Africa finalised (but not released)
- 2 expert reports on the Machrek initiated
- 1 Newsletter on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- *Internal reports from the meeting in Casablanca and Amman*
- *Civil society statements and advocacy in relation to Euro-African Summit on migration in Rabat. July 2006*

Output 2007

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

Output second half of 2008

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

2006

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

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

- Following the meeting, the EMHRN in cooperation with the FIDH and the EuroMed NGO Platform conducted several advocacy initiatives seeking to ensure civil society participation in the Euro-African Summit on Migration that took place in Rabat 10-12 July 2006. Regretfully, civil society did not get access to the conference, but a statement from the three organisations was issued following to the conference.
- On 19 June Michel Tubiana (EC) and Sandrine Grenier (EMHRN Brussels) had meetings with representatives of the EU Council and European Commission to discuss migration and human rights issues before the Summit. Michel Tubiana also made a presentation at the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament the same day.
- During Summer the EMHRN identified a new team of experts to conduct two studies on respectively a) the experience of forced migrants and asylum seekers in travelling through the Machrek and coming to Europe and b) NGO presence and activities in relation to forced migrants and asylum seekers in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt as well as the legal and practical environment in which the NGOs act.
- Partial results of these studies were presented at the third Working group meeting held in Amman, 16-17 December 2006 (with the assistance of the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies). Also local Jordanian

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

NGOs were invited as well as representatives of the UNHCR and the IOM. The meeting was divided in two parts. A closed meeting of the working group members where they discussed the mandate of the WG and the needs of its members including the need to receive training on EU policies on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The public part of the meeting, that was opened by the head of the EU delegation in Amman, discussed the research reports and presentations made by the UNHCR, IOM and EU representatives in Jordan.

- In preparation of the meeting the EMHRN issued a first newsletter on the question of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in a EuroMed context.

2007

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

- Maghreb Studies: The initial work programme foresaw that two reports on the Maghreb (under UNHCR project) be conducted. These two reports were produced. One was finalized and a draft of the second produced. However, following disagreements with the UNHCR, it was not possible to publish the reports.
- Mashrek studies: It was initially foreseen that two reports be published on the Mashrek (under AENEAS project). One of the reports was produced. However, it fell short of expectations and it was thus not possible to publish it. The second report was never produced following major disagreements between the researchers on the working methodology. The EMHRN thus decided to launch a new report (fact sheet study) on migration and asylum in the Mashrek, to collect the missing information. The final result will consist in one report and not two, as initially foreseen.
- Working group meetings: it was decided to schedule an additional working group meeting, to take place by end of 2008.

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

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

- The Working group met in Rome on 19-21 May 2007. The following points were on the agenda: Exchange of views with UNHCR, IOM and Italian NGOs on the situation of migration and asylum in Italy; Introduction of new project coordinator; Training on migration and asylum in the Barcelona process and neighbourhood policy; Training on the external dimension of the EU migration and asylum policy; Briefing on the Euromed ministerial conference on migration; Discussion of the strategy of the Working Group; Presentation of the findings of the study on the experience of migrants having transited through the Mashrek on their way to Europe; Discussion on the terms of reference for the study on violence against migrant women.
- A press conference was organised on the situation of the Iraqi refugees in cooperation with the CIR. The UNHCR as well as two member organisations of the working group (CIR, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon) participated to the press conference. In that perspective, a press release of the EMHRN was drafted, in close collaboration with the CIR and other organisations.
- The Rome meeting also concluded that a fact sheet study had to be initiated in order to collect the information which the first two studies on the Mashrek (see above) failed to provide. Draft terms of reference were sent to the members of the steering committee on 27 July 2007, for comments. A draft "fact sheet", specifying the information which EMHRN wishes to collect, was also sent to the members of the steering committee. TOR and fact sheets were presented and approved during the Cairo meeting (19-21 October 07). The implementation of the study is presently in process.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- Also the terms of references of the study on violence against women in migration was discussed during the Rome meeting. A new draft of the terms of reference, in light of the abovementioned remarks, was sent to the members of the steering committee and other NGOs active in the field of women's rights on 27 July 2007, for comments. The TORs were published in November 2007. The researchers were selected in December 2007. The implementation of the study is presently in process.
- Finally, it was agreed during the Rome meeting that the scope of the study on economic and social rights, as defined earlier had to be narrowed down.
- The WG met again in Cairo on 19-21 October 2007. The following points were on the agenda; overview of the latest developments concerning migrants and refugee protection in the region; training sessions on, respectively, EU policies, the rights of migrants and refugees, situation of migrants and refugees in Egypt; Discussion on the Euromed ministerial conference and presentation of position note and advocacy actions to come; Follow up to the project implementation, including discussion of the TOR of the different studies to be launched. The WG meeting also included a meeting between EMHRN members and Egyptian NGOs during which the latter described the difficult situation of migrants and refugees in Egypt.

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

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

A presentation note in this regard was prepared for the Cairo meeting and further discussed at the level of the EMHRN EC later on. It was agreed that such mission would focus on the follow up to individual emblematic cases, relating to the access to international protection for refugees as well as protection against mistreatments for returned migrants in the EuroMed region. It was also decided that an additional working group meeting needed to be scheduled by the end of 2008 with all potential local actors in an Alert mission, in order to exchange about existing good practices and identify cooperation possibilities.

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

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

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

The project coordinator had several advocacy meetings with EU civil servants, in April 2007 and September 2007. The purpose of these meetings was to collect information in relation to the Ministerial conference on

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

migration and to share with the interlocutors some of the EMHRN concerns regarding migrants' and refugee protection in the frame of the Euromed cooperation.

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

First half of 2008

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

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

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

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

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

5.3.3 Economic and social rights

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

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

The **short term objective** is to:

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN plans to:

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output first half of 2008

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

Summary of Achievements

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

2006

- Since July 2005 the EMHRN cooperated on a project on economic and social rights in partnership with the Comisiones Obréros, the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, Fundación Paz y Solidaridad and the Friedrich

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Ebert Foundation (with support of the Spanish Development Cooperation Aid). The project aimed at evaluating the impact of the EMP on employment in eight Mediterranean countries. It consisted of drafting eight national reports on the impact of the EMP on employment and the right to work as well as one report on the EU/EMP policies and practice regarding the Barcelona Process. These reports would then be gathered into a synthesis report. The aim of these reports would be to show the link between economics and human rights, and to raise awareness and increase the capacity of NGOs to use a rights based approach to economic and social rights issues. The EMHRN ensured the presence of several EMHRN members at the meetings under the project¹³.

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

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

2007

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

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

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

- During 2007 and the first half of 2008 the EMHRN started exploring the possibility of producing a practical resource on economic and social rights that could be used by NGOs in the region. In particular, the resource and subsequent activity would be focused on promoting the economic and social rights dimension of the Barcelona process which to date has been neglected by both the EU institutions and most of civil society. The resource would include a legal base in order to promote the justiciability of economic and social rights and also have a focus on broader advocacy and campaigning techniques. It would be produced in cooperation with member organisations of the EMHRN and hence lay the ground for the establishment of a working group.
- The EMHRN participated in a conference organised by its Dutch member organisation Aim for Human Rights (formerly HOM) in the Netherlands on 29-30 November 2007 on human rights impact assessment. The case of Egypt and the ENP was discussed during the conference in which the CIHRS and other Egyptian human rights NGOs took part. Following the conference, Aim for Human Rights decided to work on the right to health in Egypt and to develop a monitoring/ advocacy tool in this regard.

First half of 2008

- Discussions about the future work of the EMHRN in the field of economic and social rights continued within the EC
- The research on economic and social rights of migrants was launched (see under migration)

¹³ Iain Byrne, Human Rights Centre, Essex; Khemais Chammari, individual member took part in the process as EMHRN human rights experts; Nouzha Lamrini; Moroccan Democratic Association of Women (ADFM); Souhad Triki, Maghreb Egalité; Ghassan Abdallah, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation; Delphine Compain, René Moawad Foundation, Lina Al-Qorah, SIGI; Nizam Assaf, Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies.

- The EMHRN (EC member Iain Byrne) took part in a meeting in June organised by Aim for Human Rights in Cairo to develop indicators regarding the right to health in Egypt

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

6. Communication

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

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

The **short term objective** is to;

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

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

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

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

Summary of Achievements

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output first half of 2008

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

2006

The EMHRN finalized the largest part of the renewal of its web site. The establishing of the web site took place with the active inputs of an ad hoc group of EMHRN members knowledgeable of web sites from the North and the South¹⁴. In 2006 the ad hoc group met once in Paris (February 2006) while the overall build-up of the Web site was presented for the members at the General Assembly in Madrid. From January to September Secretariat staff members worked on the content built-up of the Site that was officially launched in September 2006.

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

¹⁴ Malika Abdelaziz, [ACSUR Las Segovias](#), Spain; Omar Grech, [MEDAC](#), Malta ; Aiman Haddad, Arabic Translator ; Munir Idaibes, Aman Jordan Web Site ([SIGI](#)), Jordan; Stefan Lütgenau, [Bruno Kreisky Foundation](#), Austria; Colm Regan, [80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World](#), Ireland; Adam Nissen Feldt/Klaus Slavensky, [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#), Denmark; Lina Quora, [SIGI](#), Jordan

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

2007

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

2008

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

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

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

7. Solidarity

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

The **general objective** is

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

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

In this respect it will:

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

Summary of Achievements

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

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

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

Output 2008

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

2006

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

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

2007

- The EMHRN worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders who on several occasions supported EMHRN members' activities.
- On 21 February the EMHRN expressed its concern that the Trial Court of Tunis confirmed the decision of cancelling the congress of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH).
- On 12 April the EMHRN condemned the continuous Judiciary harassment of Diyabakir Mayor and former IHD member Osman Baydemir, Turkey.
- On 9 May the EMHRN issued a statement expressing its dismay of the sentencing of Syrian human rights defender Anwar El Bunni to 5 years imprisonment and the fact that hundreds of other political prisoners are currently in detention and still awaiting trial in Syria
- On 10 May the EMHRN issued a statement about the unacceptable treatment by the Authorities at Ben Gurion airport of Mr. Ameer Makhoul, Director of the Union of Arab Community Based Organisations in Israel (Ittijah) and founding member of the Euromed non-Governmental Platform.
- On 31 May the EMHRN condemned the fact that PCHR office in Jabalaya (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights) was hit during an air raid by Israeli forces as well as the killings of many civilians by the Israeli Defence Forces. The office was not the target but it was severely damaged by the blast.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- On 20 July the EMHRN issued a statement about the arrest of several members of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH) and the charge against 7 AMDH members for 'attacking the sacred values of the Kingdom'.
- On 21-27 July 2007 the EMHRN sent a mission to investigate the current human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and, in particular, the Gaza strip. It was composed of EMHRN members Per Stådig, lawyer, Sweden, and Stefan August Lütgenau, historian, Austria. The mission met with representatives of human rights organisations, trade unions, women's organisations, journalists and other civil society organisations in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel. It also met with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) belonging to Fatah, Hamas and other political parties, including independent PLC members, as well as other representatives of the two parties to the present internal conflict.
- On 15 August the EMHRN expressed its concern at intense harassment faced by Omar Mestiri (CNLT), a human rights activist and journalist from the Tunisian judiciary.
- On 3 and 4 September the EMHRN condemned the action by unidentified individuals who broke into and ransacked the office of lawyer Ayachi Hammami in Tunis. The computer was wrecked and put on fire. The interior of the office was damaged by fire.
- On 4 September the EMHRN issued a statement about denial by the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Occupied Territories (COGAT) of entry permits to four human rights defenders to attend meetings of the EMHRN's Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians (WG), which took place in Jerusalem on 26 and 27 August 2007. The four applicants were Mr. Issam Younis, General Director and Mr. Mahmoud Abu Rahma of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; and Mr. Raji Sourani, Director and Mr. Hamdi Shaqura of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights-Gaza.
- On 4 September the EMHRN also expressed its concern by the plight of seven Tunisian fishermen arrested in Italy on August 8, 2007, after they came to the rescue of 44 migrants and asylum seekers in distress.
- On 10 September the EMHRN protested against the decision to close down the Association of Human Rights and Legal Aid (AHLRA) in Egypt which seemed to be retaliation for its significant role in exposing the wave of institutionalized torture being practiced in Egypt.
- On 10 September the EMHRN welcomed the release of the seven Tunisian fishermen who were arrested and detained by Italian authorities since 8 August, 2007.
- On 12 December the EMHRN urged the Syrian authorities to release and immediately put an end to all arbitrary measures against the Al Bunni family - after the arrest of Akram Bunni - and Syrian human rights defenders, who have been subjected to continuous repression.

2008

- The EMHRN worked in close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders who on several occasions supported EMHRN members' activities.
- On 9 January the EMHRN, The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) expressed their deepest concern about the ongoing arbitrary detention of nine peaceful activists in Syria who participated in a meeting which resulted in the creation of the National Council of the Damascus Declaration.
- On 14 January the EMHRN issued a statement about attacks and court actions by neo-Nazis against GHM's Spokesperson Panayote Dimitras, Greece.
- On 30 January the EMHRN protested against the arrest of Ethem Açıkalin, Chairperson of the IHD branch in Adana, and 6 other persons. They were accused of being members of an illegal organisation and 'making propaganda of an illegal organisation'.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- On 30 January the EMHRN, The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) expressed their deepest concern about continued crackdown on Syrian activists when Mr Riad Seif, former member of the Syrian parliament and ‘Damascus Spring’ figurehead, was arrested by the Syrian Security forces.
- On 7 February the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders expressed their deepest concern regarding the prohibition from travelling which was imposed on Mr. Hisham El Bastawassi, vice-president of the Egyptian Court of Cassation, and Mr. Ashraf El-Baroudi, judge at Alexandria Court of Appeal. Mr. Bastawassi and Mr. El-Baroudi were invited to attend a meeting on the independence of the judiciary in the EuroMed region organised by the EMHRN in Brussels on 9-11 February 2008.
- On 20 February the EMHRN issued a statement about the violent assault in Tunisia on Fatma Ksila, Secretary General of CRLDHT¹, and Samia Abbou, member of the ALTLT.
- On 5 March the EMHRN firmly condemned the assault and the ill treatments imposed on Ms Sihem Bensedrine spokesperson and Secretary-General of the Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisia) and Mr. Omar Mestiri (at Tunis Airport).
- On 26 March the EMHRN asked for a stop to the arbitrary investigation against the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) and its spokes person Mr. Panayote Dimitras following a complaint filed by a neo-Nazi convicted after a GHM complaint.
- On 2 April the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders welcomed the verdict issued on 30 March 2008 by the Egyptian judiciary, which allowed the Center for Trade Unions and Workers’ Services (CTUWS) to continue its activities in Egypt.
- On 8 April the EMHRN and several other organisations expressed their deep concern about the request of the public prosecutor of a two years imprisonment of Mr. Abderrahman Amine Sidhoum, lawyer and member of SOS Disparu(e)s at a court trial on 30 March.
- On 14 April the EMHRN expressed its concern about new acts of harassment and intimidation against M. Khémaïs Chammari, individual member of the EMHRN and board member of the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.
- On 20 May the EMHRN protested against the ban to travel and to leave the Palestinian territories imposed since March 2006 by the Israeli authorities on Mr. Shawan Jabarin, General Director of Al-Haq, a EMHRN member organisation.
- On 9 June the EMHRN issued a statement against a Turkish court’s decision to dissolve the association, Lambda Istanbul, which defends lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people’s human rights in Turkey.
- On 13 June the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders condemned the Egyptian Government’s decision to prevent the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) from participating in the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV and AIDS, which was held in New York on 10 and 11 June 2008.
- On 13 June 2008 the EMHRN and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, urged the Syrian authorities to immediately put an end to the ongoing judicial and administrative harassment against Mr. Mazen Darwish, Head of the Syrian Center for Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression and a member of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights (CDF).

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

8. Training

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

The **general objective** is to

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

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

Summary of Achievements

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

Output 2006

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

2007

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

First half of 2008

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

2006

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- The EMHRN consider its networking activities – in particular the Working groups - as capacity building activities for its members. This has been established by two evaluation reports of the EMHRN15. In addition, the EMHRN aims at initiating targeted training activities for its members and NGOs in the region where gaps in training offers have been identified.
- In 2006 the EMHRN conducted two training sessions on the European Neighbourhood Policy (in Egypt and Lebanon) and prepared training documents in this regard (see below). It also organised a training sessions at the June PIP WG meeting.
- It published a guide to human rights in Euro-Mediterranean Relations including power point presentations.
- Finally it initiated work to conduct training sessions on gender mainstreaming for its members in 2007.

2007

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

First half of 2008

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

9. Advocacy and dialogue

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

The **general objective** is to efficiently communicate EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU and EMP and ensure feed-back from and dialogue with these
The **short term objective** is to build on and develop existing activities regarding the EU institutions and to strengthen work on bi-lateral relations in particular as concerns the human rights instruments of the ENP

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

- Strengthen staffing of the Brussels office to include a director, a full time assistant, a part time media specialist and an intern
- Develop a media strategy linked to the EMHRN advocacy strategy
- Develop a strategy of the EMHRN with regard to the ENP, including actively looking into the possibility of setting up a working group.
- Maintain advocacy initiatives on individual EMP countries and draw lessons learned from these initiatives
- Advise EMHRN members and develop EMHRN advocacy working groups on the multilateral and bi-lateral level

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

- Continue promoting its general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the EMP, the EU and partner governments; Disseminate reports and policy papers produced by its working groups and missions on key questions requiring particular attention and promote their recommendations; disseminate the results of its missions; Organise meetings between members and the European institutions (Parliament, Commission and Council); Inform members on the Web and in news letters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP; Organise executive committee meetings in different partner countries of the EMP, facilitating meetings with government representatives, the press and NGOs.

Summary of Achievements

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

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

Output 2006

- Power point presentations of the human rights dimension of the EMP, ENP, and EU finalised and up-loaded on the EMHRN Web site
- 160 key actors directly informed and trained on the ENP of which 130 were NGOs
- 2 reports on the ENP and Egypt and Lebanon released and up loaded on EMHRN Home page
- EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before all Association Council meetings
- 3.400 subscribers received reports, letters and press releases
- Broad media attention regarding the human rights dimension of the ENP in Egypt and Lebanon
- NGOs in Lebanon and Egypt monitor local progress or set-back in human rights dimension of ENP
- Encounters between NGOs and EU institutions' representatives have been regularly organised on the human rights situation in several Mediterranean countries and on thematic issues (eg gender equality, migration); also EMHRN and its members regularly heard in the EP sub-committee on human rights and in the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group
- Approximately 100 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters
- Following NGO advocacy EU institutions act, eg an EP resolution and Council statement's on Egypt in mid 2006.
- Successful advocacy work regarding women's rights with the adoption of the Istanbul Euromed 5 Years Action Plan.
- Successful joint advocacy work of the EMHRN with other NGOs regarding the new financial regulation for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Output in 2007

- Around 230 key actors directly informed and trained on the ENP
- 2 reports on the ENP and Israel and Morocco released and up loaded on EMHRN Web site
- EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries.
- 3.400 subscribers received reports, letters and press releases
- Broad media attention regarding in Israel and Morocco on the human rights dimension of the ENP
- NGOs in Israel, Palestine and Morocco monitor local progress or set-back in human rights dimension of ENP

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- Encounters between EMHRN members and EU institution representatives have been regularly organised on the human rights situation in several Mediterranean countries and on thematic issues (eg gender equality, migration, justice, freedom of association); also EMHRN and its members regularly heard in the EP sub-committee on human rights and in the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group
- Approximately 100 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters
- Successful joint advocacy work of the EMHRN with other NGOs regarding the new financial regulation and instrument for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
- Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joined advocacy efforts.
- Successful co-organisation of the EMHRN's 10th Anniversary including meetings in the Council (Maghreb-Machrek group; the European Parliament and Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner)

First half of 2008

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

2006

- The EMHRN maintained and developed a wide network between its members, EU, ENP and EMP officials through regular contacts with relevant representatives of the EU institutions and through organising visits for human rights defenders in Brussels. For example 6 Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders attended meetings in Brussels on 16-19 June 2006; Michel Tubiana (member of the EMHRN Executive Committee (EC)) and Moataz El Fegiery (CIHRS, EC member), Orna Kohn (PCATI) and Jessica Montell (B'Tselem) took part in an EP hearing on 19 June 2006 on respectively 'human rights, human rights defenders and migrants' and 'human rights and human rights defenders in the EU- Egypt ENP Action Plan and the EU-Israel Action Plan'.
- As mentioned above the EMHRN also issued 26 News bulletins with latest news briefs on the human rights situation in the region, EU, EMP and civil society initiatives in Arabic, English and French. This included statements made before meetings taking place within the framework of the bilateral association agreements between the EU and South Mediterranean Partners. They were forwarded to 3.400 subscribers in the EuroMed region, the vast majority being key actors of the EMP (NGO representatives, representatives of the EU institutions, Parliamentarians, experts, etc.).
- Joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before all Association Council meetings (EU-Tunisia on 6 March, EU-Algeria on 14 March, EU-Lebanon on 6 April, EU-Egypt on 8 June) and an EMHRN letter before the EU-Israel Association Council on 9 June
- During the year the EMHRN and its members had meetings with representatives of the cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner; the Commission's staff from Relex and AidCo; the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group and representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean countries as well as Members of national parliaments in the EU and Mediterranean countries and Members of the European Parliament and the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly.
- The EMHRN and its members were invited by the Maghreb-Mashrek group of the Council. Hence a delegation from Egypt and then Lebanon presented their concerns before the MAMA group, and later EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi made a presentation of the EMHRN's work on 7 December 2006.
- Kamel Jendoubi also made a presentation on human rights in EU-Mediterranean relations at a hearing of the EPP Group in the European Parliament on 7 December.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- In relation to EC meetings in France, Denmark and Jordan (see below) meetings were held with government representatives and representatives of civil society.
- The EMHRN was consulted prior to the holding of sub-committee meetings on human rights under the Association Agreement between the EU and Morocco (14 November 2006)
- The EMHRN also took a pro-active part in the Brussels NGOs successful work to ensure an independent budget line for the European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights and participated in NGO consultation meetings with the European Parliament and Commission on EIDHR budget line and programming.
- The EMHRN produced a PowerPoint presentation about the human rights dimension of the EMP, ENP and the EU. It was tested at two training seminars in Egypt and Lebanon and up-loaded on the EMHRN's web site. By the end of 2006 a training guide was also about to be finalised providing background information to the Power point presentation.
- Furthermore, the EMHRN organised two seminars on the ENP:

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

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

On 2-3 June 2006 the EMHRN organised a seminar on the ENP in Beirut entitled Human Rights in the Lebanon Action Plan. It gathered around 90 participants mainly from Lebanon, but also from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Georgia, Moldavia and Turkey, in addition to representatives of the Lebanese Government, the European Commission, and the embassies of the following countries: United Kingdom, Austria, France, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, Sweden, Norway, Palestinian National Authority, Canada, USA and Russia.

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

2007

- The EMHRN maintained and developed a wide network between its members, EU and EMP officials through regular contacts with relevant representatives of the EU institutions and organising visits for human rights defenders in Brussels. For instance a lobbying visit of a delegation of three of EMHRN's Israeli and Palestinian members (Adalah, Arab Association for Human Rights and Al Haq) visited Brussels in June to present a report from a seminar in Tel Aviv on the ENP and Israel and the EMHRN's annual report on Human Rights in EU-Israeli relations. Moroccan members (ADFM, AMDH, OMDH) visited Brussels in November to present the report of the seminar co-organised by the EMHRN and the Moroccan Euromed Platform and their key recommendations for the implementation of the human rights chapter of the ENP Action Plan to the EU institutions.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- Joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings (EU-Egypt in March, EU-Lebanon in March, EU-Morocco in August) and following the EU-Egypt Association Council meeting (March).
- During the year the EMHRN and its members had meetings with representatives of Commission staff from Relex and AidCo; the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group and representatives of EU Member States and Mediterranean countries as well as Members of national parliaments in the EU and Mediterranean countries, Members of the European Parliament and the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly.
- The EMHRN was consulted prior to the holding of sub-committee meetings on human rights under the Association Agreement between the EU and Lebanon, EU and Morocco, EU and Tunisia, EU and Egypt.
- The EMHRN Brussels office made several briefings to journalists, eg on 3 October with Lebanese journalists.
- The EMHRN also took a pro-active part in the Brussels NGOs successful work on the new programming of the European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights (eg. on possibilities of funding of HR defenders in emergency situation under the new EIDHR) and participated in NGO consultation meetings with the European Parliament and Commission on EIDHR budget line and programming. It also participated in several meetings with other NGOs working on Human Rights defenders in Brussels to discuss the new funding possibility for human rights defenders under the EIDHR.
- EMHRN did some advocacy work regarding other EU programs for the Mediterranean region (eg. on gender and civil society)
- The EMHRN Brussels office lobbied on gender in view of the Euromed Parliamentary Assembly plenary session which took place on 16-18 March in Tunis.
- The EMHRN made a speech on its work and human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region at the meeting of High Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Berlin, May 2008.
- EMHRN Brussels office made a presentation on the EMHRN and its work at the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs, security and human rights to EU and Mediterranean countries' members of parliaments on 2 July.
- Brussels office partly participated in the "international Conference of civil society in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace" organized by the UN Committee for the exercise of the inalienable rights of Palestinian people with the support of ECCP in the European Parliament.
- The EMHRN met the Commissioner in charge of external affairs, Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, on 18 December.
- The EMHRN organised a series of several major events on the occasion of its 10th anniversary in Brussels on 14-18 December, these included a press conference, WG meeting as well as a public seminar on freedom of association, a hearing in the European Parliament, a presentation at the council MAMA group and a reception.
- The EMHRN attended the EU Human rights Discussion Forum in Portugal (6-7 December).
- It presented its recommendations for the European Parliament's Annual Human Rights Report at a NGO consultation meeting on 20 December.
- In addition the EMHRN organised 3 training seminars on the ENP in 2007 followed by two public seminars in 2007.

In April 2007, the EMHRN organised a training session in Ramallah, as well as a second training session in Tel Aviv on the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

107

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Each training session gathered around 20 representatives of human rights NGOs from Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Europe. Representatives of the EC delegations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem also participated in part of the trainings in Ramallah and Tel Aviv.

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

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

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

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

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

First half of 2008

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

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

- The Brussels office facilitated the open seminar of the Justice working group in February (see under Justice)
- The Commission issued country evaluation reports of the ENP Action Plans in April 2008. A call for information on the implementation of the Action Plans priorities was launched on the ENP website. Due to the too short deadlines no substantial paper was released by the EMHRN but the EMHRN sent a letter referring to the EMHRN's last reports and asking for an effective consultation of civil society in the future
- The EMHRN had several meetings with the various country desks, the human rights unit and the ENP unit in the Commission during the first half of 2008, inter alia to advocate and discuss the human rights and migration chapters of the ENP action plans in view of the forthcoming Commission's evaluation.
- The EMHRN and B'tselem had meetings with the Commission on February 26 in order to advocate in view of the 3rd EU-Israel working group on human rights which took place on April 15. Following the EMHRN Working Group meeting on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians in Brussels from April 6-8, a delegation of 3

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Israeli and Palestinian members stayed for advocacy meetings with the EU Institutions on April 9 and 10. They met representatives of the Commission, the European Parliament and made a presentation on the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT at the Council CIVCOM Working Group (dealing with civilian aspects of crisis management) as well as at the Council Maghreb/ Mashrek Working Group.

- The EMHRN was in contact with the European Parliament Mashrek delegation which went to Jordan from April 28 to May 3 2008 and met different NGOs.
- In view of the political subcommittee scheduled for June 2, the EMHRN, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) sent a note on the situation of the human rights in Egypt

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

10. Partnerships

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

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

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

Activities 2006-08 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

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

Summary

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

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

Output 2006, 2007 and first half of 2008

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

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders

2006

The EMHRN hosted the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders (founded by the EMHRN on 9 December 2004). EMHRN President, Kamel Jendoubi attended the board meetings of the Foundation as ordinary board member. Executive Director Marc Schade-Poulsen also attended the board meetings as an observer, in his capacity of temporary consultant for organisational matters of the Foundation (Paris, February 2006, Madrid, May 2006, Paris October 2006). They also attended the meeting of the Council of Representatives that was facilitated by the EMHRN following the EMHRN General Assembly (for details, please consult the reports of the EMHRF on its Web Site, <http://www.emhrf.org/>).

2007

The EMHRN continued close cooperation with the EMHRF by hosting the Foundation at its secretariat and through EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi's membership of the EMHRN board. Many and frequent contacts were also maintained between the EMHRF and EMHRN members¹⁶.

First half of 2008

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

EuroMed NGO Platform

2006

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

The EMHRN was actively present at the Civil Forum in Marrakech, November 2006, which had four main themes: Peace; Migration; Democratisation and Human Rights; and Sustainable Development. EMHRN members/representatives were involved in the Peace workshop (Stefan Lütgenau), Migration (Mohammed En Najar; Mustapha Belbah, Kamel Jendoubi), and Democratisation and Human Rights (Mohamed Mouaqit, Sian

¹⁶ For details, please consult the reports of the EMHRF on its Web Site, <http://www.emhrf.org/>.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Lewis Anthony, Khemais Chammari, Marc Schade-Poulsen). The EMHRN also co-organised a parallel workshop on gender with the IEMED (Kamel Jendoubi and Rabea Naciri) and on Freedom of Association with Fondation René Seydoux and the FEMEC (Marc Schade-Poulsen and Khemais Chammari). In addition staff persons Camilla Wass, Marc Degli (EMHRN) and Anne Sophie Schaeffer (EMHRF) attended the meeting. The Civil Forum issued a statement that can be found on the EMHRN web site. Reports from the civil forum will be published on the Platform's Web Site.

2007

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

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

2008

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

- Nine members of the EuroMed NGO Platform, including the EMHRN, formed a consortium (under the lead of Acsur) and presented a bid for the EU Commission tender for the Regional Program, ENPI South, aiming *inter alia* to enhance the capacity of civil society organisation to provide inputs to the Barcelona process and the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Consortium was selected to make a final bid.

Danish NGO Network

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

2006, 2007 and first half of 2008

Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and International Human Rights Organisations

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

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

Spanish civil society

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

National Human Rights and Democracy Plan in Morocco

In late 2006 the EMHRN became part of a Consortium with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and EuroMed Network (a Brussels based consultancy firm), the latter being the lead agency, to present bid for a tender of the EU Commission to provide technical assistance for the development by the Moroccan Consultative Council for Human Rights (CCDH) of a national plan for human rights and democracy. The EMHRN agreed to its participation after close consultation with its members in Morocco being members of the CCDH, i.e the ADFM and the OMDH, the idea being that the EMHRN's participation should take place in partnership with the EMHRN members.

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

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

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

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

Other EuroMed networks and initiatives

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

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

11. Executive Bodies and memberships

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

The **general objective** is to

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

The **short term objective** is to

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

Activities 2006-08 according to Work Programme

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

Summary

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

Output 2006

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

Output 2007

- *Discussion of change of statutes and by-laws initiated*
- *Setting up of gender mainstreaming policy initiated*
- *Three Executive Committee meetings (Lisbon, Ljubljana, Brussels)*

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

- *One meeting of heads and political referents of EMHRN working groups*
- *Implementation of new organisational structure*
- *Three steering group meetings enlarged with EC member in charge of gender mainstreaming*

First half of 2008

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

Executive Committee meetings, 2006

The EMHRN held three executive committee meetings in 2006

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

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

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

Executive Committee meetings in 2007

The EMHRN held three executive committee meetings in 2007:

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

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

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

The EMHRN's 10th Anniversary

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

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

First half of 2008

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

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

- All EC meetings have been occasions for the EMHRN to set-up meetings with EMHRN members and civil society organisations in the countries of concern as well as with government and EU representatives.
- The EC furthermore established the practice of issuing a statement on key questions regarding the human rights situation in the region following its meetings.
- The question of gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN was the subject of several EC meetings. Initiatives in that regard are mentioned above under the gender WG activities. The EMHRN is now in the process of establishing a gender audit of the Network that will enable it to establish a strategy for the EMHRN.
- Minutes of the meetings have all been made available to the membership and the public on the EMHRN web site.
- In between the EC meetings, steering group meetings have been held in Copenhagen in order to facilitate management of the EMHRN. Prior to the General Assembly in 2006 the Steering group was composed of EMHRN President, Vice President and Treasurer. Following the General Assembly the steering was enlarged to include EC members in charge of gender mainstreaming¹⁷.

¹⁷ In 2006 meetings were held on 29 March and 29 October; in 2007 on 8 February, 9 May and 16 November. In the first half of 2008 meetings were held on 22 February and 24 June.

12. EMHRN membership applications and resignations

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

2006

Regular Members:

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

Associate Members:

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

Individual Members:

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

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

Regular members

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

Individual members

Madjid Benchikh, Law Professor, Algeria

Resignation of EMHRN membership

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

Regular Members:

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

Individual Members:

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

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

Regular members

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

Withdrawal

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

Associate members

- International Helsinki Committee (ceased its activities in 2007)

Individual members

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

13. Administration

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

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

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

The EMHRN will work to

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

Summary of Achievements

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

2006

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

2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First half of 2008

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

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

In all, the EMHRN is now staffed by:

Full time

Management

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

Coordinators

5. Project Coordinator for European Neighbourhood Policy. Emilie Dromzee, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2005)
6. Project Coordinator for Justice, Fabrice Liebaut, Master Degree in Law, Admitted as Lawyer to the French Bar (with the EMHRN since 2006)
7. Project Coordinator for Human Rights Education , Nour Hemici, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
8. Project Coordinator, Chadi Sidhom; MA in Business administration Rabat (with the EMHRN since 2007)
9. Project Coordinator for Freedom of Association Mr. Thibaut Guillet MA International and European Law of Human Rights, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
10. Lina Al Qurah, Director of Gender projects, Gender specialist, Amman (with the EMHRN since 2007)
11. Nathalie Stanus Project coordinator for Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, Licence in Political science – International relations, Master in European Studies, DEA (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies)

Executive staff

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

Administrative staff

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

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

Funding

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

Acknowledgements

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

In 2006

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

In 2007

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

First half of 2008

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

14. Annexes

➤ Annex 1: Presentation of new members

- a. Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies, Syria

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

Presentation of new EMHRN members

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

(max 2 pages)

Date 20/8/2008

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

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

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

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

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

Legal status of organisation not registered

120

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Number of members 12

Number of staff 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The presentation is written by Radwan Ziadeh

b. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus

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

Presentation of new EMHRN members

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

(max 2 pages)

Date 18/82008

Name of the new EMHRN member Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

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

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

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

Legal status of organisation NGO

Number of members N/A

Number of staff 3 full time staff and 7 external consultants

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

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

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

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

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

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

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

The presentation is written by Josie Chirstodoulou

c. AMERA, United Kingdom

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

*Please place the Mouse in the boxes below and insert the requested information
(max 2 pages)*

Date 22/8/2008

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

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

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

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

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

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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

Number of members AMERA UK is totally responsible for funding AMERA Egypt, but also partially funds the Refugee Law Project in Uganda although not formally a 'member' of AMERA.. It aims to add one more refugee legal aid NGO in the south each year. AMERA UK has also initiated the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network (SRLAN) to promote the establishment of refugee legal aid in countries in the global south. As AMERA UK, the SRLAN is conducting active lobbying at the International Council for Voluntary Agencies/Geneva, where SRLA representatives are invited as AMERA 'associates'. The SRLAN has had three meetings since its founding meeting in 2007 and membership will be formalized in the next year. Plans are to associate the SRLAN with FAHAMU ([www..Fahamu.org](http://www.Fahamu.org)) from September 2008 and Fahamu will seek membership in the EMHRN.

Number of staff 2 in the UK; 20 in Egypt

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

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

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

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

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

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

- AMERA Egypt provides legal assistance and psycho-social support to refugees. It has a minor's focal point dealing with separated children, an SGBV focal point deal with refugees who suffer rape, domestic violence, and discrimination as a result of sexual orientation; it writes appeals against rejection and for reopening of 'closed files'; it visits refugees in prison, providing them with food and reporting/lobbying for these detentions to UNHCR; because of its insecure registration status, it

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

lobbies against violations of refugee rights through Ambassadors in Egypt who represent member countries of the UNHCR's ExCom, through sister NGOs in Egypt, Amnesty, MAWG, FAHAMU, FIDH, Human Rights Watch; and it also monitors UNHCR's lack of procedural justice in refugee status determination (RSD) through its participation in the NGO Consultations in Geneva. AMERA UK provides funding to AMERA Egypt and to the Refugee Law Project in Uganda (www.refugeelawproject.org) that provides the same services as above, plus a research programme, refugee rights training programme for all actors that deal with refugees in their daily work, e.g. police and NGOs. Through the SRLA Network, AMERA UK links a growing number of refugee agencies around the world, exchanging information (e.g. on specific cases, country of origin information, urgent policy issues, and training materials for interpreters and on refugee law. With FAHAMU, it will develop the SRLA Network on its website beginning September 2008.

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

d. Kvinna till Kvinna, Sweden

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

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

(max 2 pages)

Date 14/102008

Name of the new EMHRN member The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation

EMHRN member category: Individual Regular Associate

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

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

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

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

Legal status of organisation Swedish Foundation

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

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

List of board members within the organisation

President: Gerd Johnsson-Latham

Vice President: Maria Ermanno-Feldner

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

125

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

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

- The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation work with women's human rights, support of civil society and strengthen partnership and networking between women's organisations in the Middle East. We have two field offices in Jerusalem and Amman and support approximately 40 women organisations in the region. We want to learn from EMHRNs member organisations experience and knowledge as well as to share our expertise and knowledge about women's human rights in the region. Together our voice will be stronger in order to advocate for women's human rights, A membership will broaden our possibilities to advocate and help us to follow the implementation of woman's human rights in the region

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

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

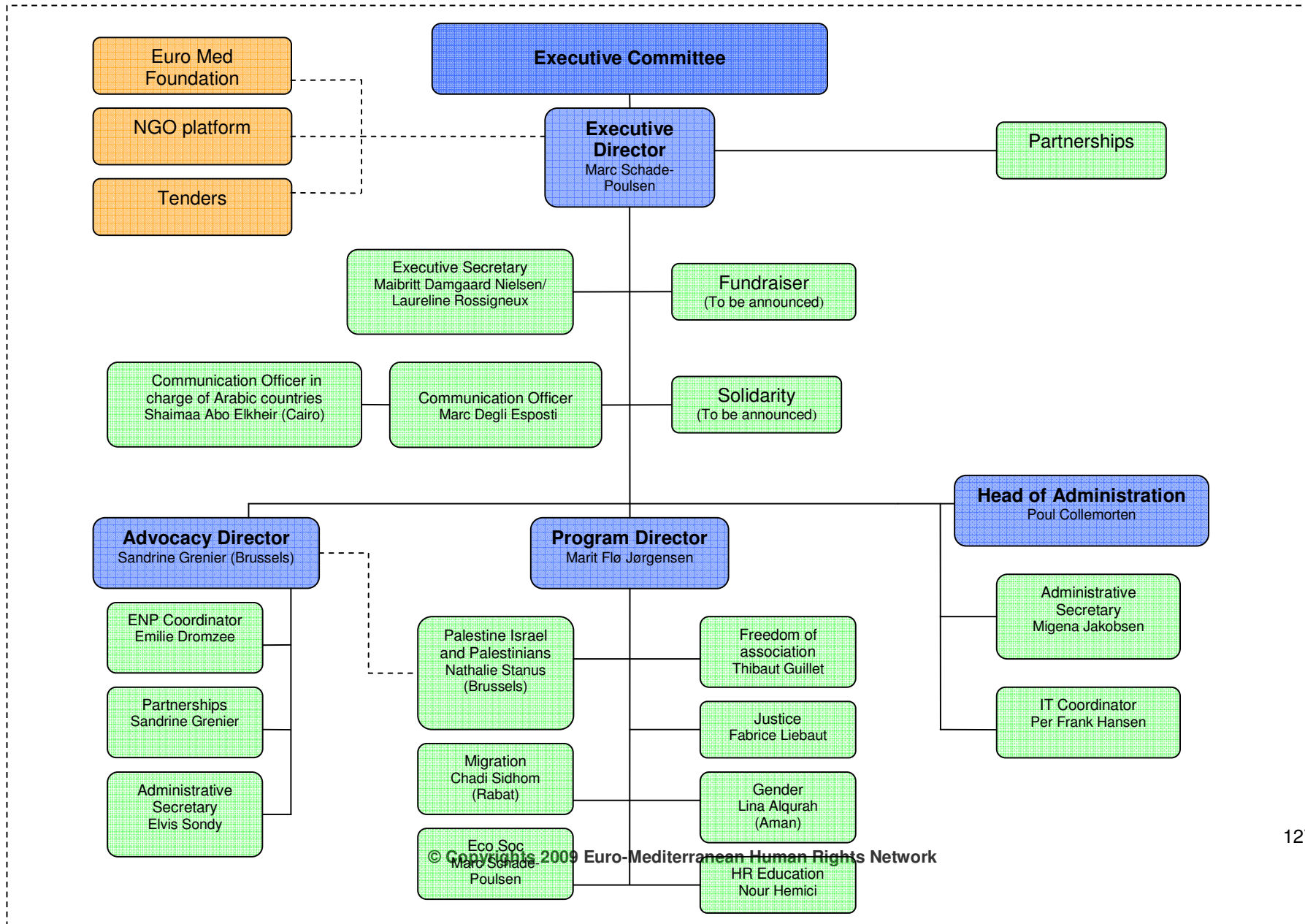
The member organisation/ individual member's main Human Rights activities:

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

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

The presentation is written by Sara Lhådö

➤ **Annex 2: Organizational chart**



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

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

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

	Kirsty Brimelow	Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales	UK
	Abbas Abbas	Damascus Centre for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies	Syria
	Karim El Chazli	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Egypt / Regional
	Mohammed El Haskouri	Moroccan Association of Human Rights	Morocco
	Abdellah El Oualladi	Moroccan Organization of Human Rights	Morocco
	Afaf Chamali	Palestinian Human Rights Organization	Lebanon
	Mokhtar Trifi	Tunisian League of Human Rights	Tunisia
	George Assaf	Individual member	
	Madjid Benchikh	Individual member	
	Anna Bozzo	Individual member	
	Jon Rud	Individual member	
	Caroline Stainier	Individual member	
	George Assaf	Individual member	

➤ **Annex 4: List of donors**

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

➤ **Annex 5: List of media quotes:**

News agencies

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

Regional and International Media

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

National Media and news papers

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

➤ **Annex 6: Publications:**

2006

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

2007

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

2008

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

Other publications

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

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

2006

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

2007

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

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

2008

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

Mediterranean region	
Two women activists violently assaulted by the Tunisian police	20-02-2008
Letter on the occasion of the Association Council EU/Lebanon	15-02-2008
Syria: new arrest and prosecutions against pro-reform activists	30-01-2008
Stop the collective punishment of civilians in Gaza	25-01-2008
Recommendations on human rights in view of the meeting of the Subcommittee on political matters between the EU and Egypt	16-01-2008
Greece: Human rights activists face attacks and court actions by neo-Nazis	14-01-2008
Crackdown on Syrian activists continue	10-01-2008
Egypt: Serious concerns over restrictions to the freedom of movement of judges Hisham Bastawissi and Ashraf El-Baroudi	07-02-2008
The Association Lambda Istanbul Shut Down Stop the Persecution Against Minorities' Rights	09-06-2008
Positive Step towards the Respect of Freedom of Association in Egypt but Concerns Remain	02-04-2008
Freedom of expression must be respected - Release Ethem Açıklalın	30-01-2008
Review the trial of Saber Ragoubi and Imed Ben Ameer	22-01-2008
Egypt: Deportation of 1400 Eritrean asylum seekers	18-06-2008

Number of subscribers to the weekly news bulletin

English	1788
French	287
Arabic	394
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2469</u>

Number of unique visitors on the website

May 2008	9566
June 2008	12 206

(Source: Awstats)

Appendix 5 : Financial Report

BUDGET AND RESULT FOR 2006 AND 2007 RELATED TO THE EMHRN WORK PROGRAMME

	2006				2007				2006-2007			
	Budget		Result		Budget		Result		Budget		Result	
3.1 Human Rights and Democratisation	575 564	32%	256 080	16%	805 790	32%	672 577	43%	1 381 354	32%	928 657	29%
3.1.1 Freedom of Associations	121 012	7%	40 603	3%	169 417	7%	210 431	13%	290 429	7%	251 034	8%
3.1.2 The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary	115 293	6%	64 790	4%	161 410	6%	126 960	8%	276 703	6%	191 750	6%
3.1.3 Women's rights, Gender equality and mainstreaming	187 633	10%	57 908	4%	262 687	10%	120 666	8%	450 320	10%	178 575	6%
3.1.4 Human Rights Education Addressing Young People	151 626	8%	92 778	6%	212 276	8%	214 519	14%	363 902	8%	307 298	10%
3.2 Human Rights and Human Security	329 053	18%	338 165	21%	460 672	18%	260 468	17%	789 725	18%	598 633	19%
3.2.1 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers	179 300	10%	214 567	14%	251 019	10%	174 298	11%	430 319	10%	388 865	12%
3.2.2 Human Rights in the Middle East Conflict	78 933	4%	109 935	7%	110 506	4%	85 614	5%	189 439	4%	195 548	6%
3.2.3 Economic and Social Rights	70 820	4%	13 663	1%	99 147	4%	557	0%	169 967	4%	14 220	0%
WORKING GROUPS TOTAL	904 617	50%	594 245	37%	1 266 462	50%	933 046	60%	2 171 079	50%	1 527 291	48%
4. Communications	157 100	9%	106 904	7%	219 939	9%	89 655	6%	377 039	9%	196 559	6%
NETWORKING TOTAL	1 061 717	59%	701 149	44%	1 486 401	59%	1 022 700	65%	2 548 118	59%	1 723 849	55%
5. Membership Support	160 658	9%	170 183	11%	224 922	9%	91 614	6%	385 580	9%	261 797	8%
5.1 Solidarity	59 230	3%	30 906	2%	82 923	3%	5 412	0%	142 153	3%	36 318	1%
5.2 Training	101 428	6%	139 277	9%	141 999	6%	86 202	6%	243 427	6%	225 479	7%
6. Advocacy and dialog	85 304	5%	96 313	6%	119 426	5%	83 920	5%	204 730	5%	180 233	6%
7. Partnership	42 742	2%	76 180	5%	75 838	3%	10 720	1%	118 580	3%	86 900	3%
8. Executive Bodies and Membership	328 388	18%	405 606	26%	443 759	18%	217 521	14%	772 147	18%	623 127	20%
9. Administration	126 361	7%	139 474	9%	176 890	7%	135 319	9%	303 251	7%	274 793	9%
TOTAL BUDGET	1 805 170	100%	588 905	100%	2 527 236	100%	1 561 794	100%	4 332 406	100%	3 150 699	100%

Appendix 6 Final version of the Statutes with the suggested amendments

TABLE OF CONTENT

1.Designation.....	136
2.Objectives.....	137
3.Members.....	138
3.1.The members of the EMHRN shall be:	138
3.1.1.Regular Members.....	138
3.1.2.Associate Members.....	138
3.1.3.Honorary Members.....	138
3.2.Conditions governing admission	138
3.3.Resignation, Expulsion and Exclusion	139
3.3.1.Resignation.....	139
3.3.2.Expulsion	139
3.3.3.Exclusion	140
4.Decision making bodies of the EMHRN	140
4.1.General Assembly	140
4.1.1.Powers	140
4.1.2.Participation in and representation at the general assembly	140
4.1.3.Meetings of the General Assembly	141
4.1.4.Agenda, time limits and steering committee.....	141
4.1.5.Proxy voting, voting and quorum	142
4.1.6.Requisite Majority.....	142
4.2.Executive Committee	142
4.2.1.Composition.....	142
4.2.2.Duration and Renewal of Mandates	143
4.2.3.Candidacy.....	143
4.2.4.Elections.....	143
4.2.5.Dismissal, Incapacity, Resignation and Loss of Mandate of Executive Committee Members..	143
4.2.6.Meetings, Quorum and Agenda.....	144
4.2.7.Powers of the Executive Committee and of its Members	144
5.Secretariat	145
5.1.Executive Director	145
5.2.Secretariat	145
6.Financial Matters	145
6.1.Fiscal Year.....	145
6.2.Financial Commitments.....	145
6.3.Budget	146
7.Amendment of the Statutes and Dissolution	146
7.1.Amendment of the Statutes.....	146
7.2.Dissolution	147
8.Bylaws	147
9.Temporary Provisions	147

1. Designation

136

- 1.1. The name of the organisation is: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network.
- 1.2. The headquarters of the Network are situated in Copenhagen (Denmark). The headquarters may be moved upon a resolution adopted by the general assembly. In the case of extreme emergency, the transfer may be decided upon by the executive committee. This decision must be ratified by the General Assembly.
- 1.3. The Network is an association as defined by the laws of the country in which the headquarters are located. It may establish ad hoc structures in other countries.
- 1.4. The Network is a non-partisan and non-profit-making organisation. No part of its net income shall benefit to any private organisation or individual.

2. Objectives

2.1. Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as defined by the Barcelona Declaration, adopted on the 10th November 1995, as well as in subsequent documents, and within the framework of co-operation between the European Union and the relevant Mediterranean countries, the objectives of the EMHRN are as follows:

- 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. The EMHRN fights against inhuman and degrading treatments and torture, racism and anti-Semitism, as well as all discrimination based on origin, gender, family situation, pregnancy, physical appearance, family name, state of health, disability, genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, age, political opinions, trade union activities, belonging or non-belonging, be it real or assumed, to a specific ethnic group, nation, race or religion. It fights against 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 to 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.

2.2. In order to achieve its objectives, the EMHRN:

- Intervenes with the relevant States and with European institutions to ensure respect for the aforementioned principles.
- Intervenes with the relevant States and with European institutions to ensure the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership implements the aforementioned principles in concrete terms.
- Gathers and disseminates among the relevant States, European institutions and the public opinion, information related to human rights situation and the Rule of law.
- Issues any recommendations it deems necessary to achieve progress in the implementation of the aforementioned principles.
- Can take legal action if this is deemed to be necessary.
- Launches relevant research and documentation activities and organise the publication, in any useful ways, of its work, positions and recommendations.
- Cooperates with all public or private, international or regional institutions whose activities are related to the objectives of the EMHRN.

2.3. The resources of the EMHRN shall be made up of contributions by its members and any other resources allowed under the law.

2.4. The working languages of the EMHRN are English, Arabic and French.

3. Members

3.1. The members of the EMHRN shall be:

- Regular Members
- Associate Members
- Honorary Members

3.1.1. Regular Members

Regular Members of the Network are national or regional non-governmental organisations, academic institutions or national human rights institutions that are recognized by the general assembly as belonging to one of the 27 partner States or to potential partner States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and that are recognized as being independent from government authorities, non-partisan and active in at least one of the human rights fields mentioned in the Barcelona Declaration. In order to be recognized as such, a regular member must, prior to being recognized, have demonstrated its ability to organise and support the Network's basic activities, along with its willingness to get involved in the overall regional dimensions of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Regular Members shall have the right to vote at the general assembly.

3.1.2. Associate Members

i The Associate member status may be granted to organisations or institutions from non-Partner States, as well as to organisations and institutions that are unable to join the Network as full and active members. Associate Members may take part in all EMHRN activities but are not entitled to vote. They have the right to attend meetings of the general assembly and are entitled to speak thereat.

3.1.3. Honorary Members

Honorary Members are persons who were Individual Members of the EMHRN until the 2008 general assembly.

Only former executive committee members may be designated as honorary members in the future, at the suggestion of the Executive Committee and upon a decision by the General Assembly.

Honorary Members may attend the general assembly and take part in EMHRN activities. They pay a membership fee. They have no voting rights.

3.2. Conditions governing admission

To become a Regular Member or an Associate Member, an organisation must:

- Meet the conditions set out in articles 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the present Statutes.
- Provide its statutes in writing, together with a letter stating that it has an activity consistent with the aims of the EMHRN.
- Adhere to the present Statutes
- Pay a membership fee
- Submit a letter of recommendation signed by at least two regular members of the EMHRN or, in the case of associate members, by two associate or regular members.

The EMHRN shall, as much as possible, maintain a balance between the number of regular members from European Union countries and the number of regular members from partnership countries.

The executive committee may decide to refuse a candidate organisation if there are already several member organisations from the same country in the EMHRN.

Generally speaking, the executive committee shall collect as much useful information as possible, in particular from other organisations that are geographically close.

The Bylaws define other EMHRN membership criteria that must be followed by the executive committee before it decides to support or reject any candidate.

Applications for membership must be sent to the Secretariat of the EMHRN. They undergo an initial review by the Executive Committee, which recommends new Members to the general assembly. The general assembly alone may make the decision to admit a Member. The Executive Committee may decide to abstain from presenting a specific membership application.

No membership application may be submitted for approval if it is received less than three months before the general assembly.

The executive committee may decide that an organisation whose membership application has been received favourably can be involved in all or part of the activities of the EMHRN, in the expectation that it will be admitted by the General Assembly.

The Bylaws set out other conditions relating to applications and membership.

3.3. Resignation, Expulsion and Exclusion

EMHRN membership ceases upon:

- resignation
- expulsion
- exclusion

3.3.1. Resignation

Any regular or associate member may resign its membership in the EMHRN. To do so, it must send the secretariat a letter stating its intention, signed by its legal representative. The Executive Committee formally acknowledges the resignation. A Member's resignation does not nullify its duty to pay its membership fee or any other sum of money that may owed.

3.3.2. Expulsion

A regular or associate member may be expelled by the executive committee if the committee finds that the member: has ceased its cooperation with the EMHRN; has ceased all activity related to the fields of work and objectives set out in the EMHRN statutes; or is not honouring its financial obligations.

Before deciding on expulsion, the executive committee gives the member concerned an opportunity to provide an explanation.

A Member may appeal its expulsion to the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures set out in the Bylaws.

The Executive Committee reports to the General Assembly all expulsions that have occurred since the last General Assembly.

3.3.3.Exclusion

A member is excluded only if it has violated the principles of the EMHRN. Exclusion may only be declared by the general assembly, at the request of the executive committee, after the member concerned has been given an opportunity to provide an explanation.

However, in demonstrated cases of emergency, in cases where the principles of the EMHRN have come under attack from a member, or in cases where a member's behaviour jeopardises the work of the EMHRN, the executive committee may decide to suspend a regular member or an associate member after the member has been given an opportunity to provide an explanation. That suspension ceases to apply if the executive committee does not proceed with the expulsion of the member concerned or does not ask the general assembly to exclude the member. A suspended member may not take part in the general assembly, except to have its case heard, until after the general assembly has made a decision.

An honorary member whose behaviour constitutes an attack upon the principles of the EMHRN may only be excluded by the general assembly upon recommendation by the Executive Committee, after the Member has been given an opportunity to provide an explanation.

4. Decision making bodies of the EMHRN

The decision-making bodies of the EMHRN are the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

4.1. General Assembly

4.1.1.Powers

The General Assembly alone has the authority to:

- Elect the president and the members of the executive committee.
- Rule on admitting regular or associate members and rule on all refusals.
- Rule on excluding a regular or associate member and, when appealed to as a last resort, rule on expulsion.
- Amend the Statutes.
- Declare dissolution of the organisation.
- Vote on activity and financial reports, and approve or reject financial statements.
- Define the general direction of the organisation and ensure that it is implemented.
- Set out the programme of activities upon recommendation of the executive committee.
- Vote on the provisional budget.
- Vote on any increase in membership fees.
- Confer honorary status on individuals upon recommendation of the executive committee.

More generally, rule on all matters referred to it by the executive committee or by regular members under the conditions set out in these Statutes.

4.1.2.Participation in and representation at the general assembly

Participants in the General Assembly include:

- Regular Members whose membership fees have been paid.
- In an advisory capacity, Associate Members whose membership fees have been paid.
- In an advisory capacity, Honorary Members whose membership fees have been paid.

Regular members and associate members are represented at the general assembly by one person each. The representation of regular members and associate members must aim to represent men and women equally.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

The executive committee may choose to invite anyone who could be of assistance in the work of the general assembly.

4.1.3. Meetings of the General Assembly

The general assembly meets every three years. The date and venue of the general assembly are decided upon by the executive committee. Meetings of the general assembly may take place in any of the partner countries.

Provided that one half of regular members request it and that the reasons for doing so are set out in precise terms, the executive committee may convene an extraordinary general assembly.

The executive committee may, at any time, convene an extraordinary general assembly with a specific agenda.

The executive director takes minutes of the decisions of the General Assembly. These minutes are signed by the President and the Executive Director of the EMHRN.

4.1.4. Agenda, time limits and steering committee

The executive committee sets a provisional agenda. In all cases, the agenda includes at least the following elements:

- Ensuring that the Members present are properly mandated and that their membership fees have been paid.
- Approval of the agenda.
- A review of, and a vote upon, the Executive Committee's activity report.
- A review of, and a vote upon, the financial report, statements, and the auditor's report.
- A review of, and a vote upon, the draft programme of activities and general directions submitted by the Executive Committee.
- A review of, and a vote upon, the draft provisional budget.
- The appointment of an auditor.
- A review of, and a vote upon, applications for membership that have been accepted as well as Members which have been excluded and any dismissals that may have taken place
- The election of the President and members of the Executive Committee and any dismissals that may have taken place.

Members of the EMHRN are advised of the date and venue of the General Assembly at least 75 days before the first day of the General Assembly meeting. In cases of absolute necessity, however, the Executive Committee has the authority to change the venue of the General Assembly meeting, provided that Members are advised at least fifteen days in advance. The provisional agenda is sent to Members at the same time as notice is given of the General Assembly meeting.

Should a Regular Member wish to add an item to the agenda, the Member has up to forty-five days before the first day of the General Assembly meeting to inform the Secretariat of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will add that item to the agenda, except in cases of refusal, which the General Assembly rules upon by simple majority.

Thirty days before the first day of the General Assembly meeting, the Secretariat sends the final agenda to the Members.

Any item not on the agenda, proposed after the deadline or during the General Assembly, may only be included in the agenda if such inclusion is approved by two thirds of Regular Members.

All other documents submitted to the General Assembly for deliberation are sent to Members at least 30 days before the first day of the General Assembly meeting.

The Executive Committee appoints Member representatives to chair the sessions. These representatives must include men and women in equal numbers, as well as Regular, Associate and Honorary Members from European Union countries and from the European Union's Mediterranean partners in equal numbers.

The session chairpersons, together with the members of the Executive Committee and, in an advisory capacity,

the Executive Director, make up the Steering Committee of the General Assembly. The names of the chairpersons are provided to Members with the provisional and final agendas. If a chair is unable to attend the General Assembly, she/he is replaced by decision of the Steering Committee of the General Assembly in full compliance with the same criteria of equal representation.

The Steering Committee of the General Assembly settles all disputes relating to the validity of Regular and Associate Members' mandates and to any problems associated with the running of the meeting. Its mandate ceases with the closing of the General Assembly and the election of the Executive Committee.

4.1.5. Proxy voting, voting and quorum

Postal votes are not permitted.

Regular Members are entitled to cast a vote by proxy on behalf of another Regular Member. Each Regular Member may only cast one proxy vote.

The Assembly's deliberations are valid only if at least half plus one of the Regular Members are present or represented.

Each Regular Member has one vote.

Elections are always conducted by secret ballot. Other votes are public.

The deliberations of an Extraordinary General Assembly are valid only if two thirds of the Members are present or represented by proxy. If quorum is not achieved, a second Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened. The deliberations of that Assembly are valid regardless of the number of members present or represented.

The second Assembly may be convened at the same time as the first and the second General Assembly meeting may take place immediately after the first.

4.1.6. Requisite Majority

All the decisions made by the General Assembly are adopted by simple majority of the votes cast.

In case of a tie, a second vote is held. Should another tie result from the second vote, the proposal is rejected.

A change in the location of the headquarters, amendments to the statutes and the decision to dissolve the organisation may only be adopted with a majority of two thirds of the Members present or represented.

4.2. Executive Committee

4.2.1. Composition

The executive committee is made up of twelve members.

A regular member may only have one representative on the executive committee.

The executive committee may only include one regular member for each country.

Half of the executive committee is made up of representatives from European Union member countries and the other half of Mediterranean partner countries of European Union, within the limit of six for each college

The Executive Committee must strive to include an equal number of men and women.

The Executive Committee includes a President, elected by the General Assembly, as well as a Vice-President and a Treasurer, both elected by the Executive Committee. These three officers make up the Steering Committee of the Executive Committee.

The President and the Vice-President may not be of the same sex. One must represent a member state of the European Union and the other a partner country of the European Union.

The Executive Committee must strive to reflect the geographical diversity of the region, South and North, as well as the diversity of the EMHRN's activities.

4.2.2. Duration and Renewal of Mandates

The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a term of three years. They may be re-elected twice. At the end of three successive terms, a Regular Member may only run for office on the Executive Committee at the General Assembly, after its previous term has expired.

If, however, a member of the Executive Committee is running for President, the number of terms already served is not taken into account. No one may be President for more than three consecutive terms.

4.2.3. Candidacy

Candidacies must reach the Secretariat at least 45 days before the first day of the General Assembly.

A candidacy must originate from the headquarters of a Regular Member. It must be accompanied by a letter of intent and specify whether it is a candidacy for the position of President.

Candidacies are sent to EMHRN Members at the same time as all statutory documents and within the time limits set out in article 4.2.4.

The other terms and conditions governing candidacies are set out in the Bylaws.

4.2.4. Elections

Elections take place by secret ballot and with a simple majority of the General Assembly's Regular Members.

In the case of a tie vote between two candidates, the winner is the longer-serving member of the EMHRN.

In the case of a tie vote between one male and one female candidate, the winner is the female candidate.

If one candidate obtains more votes than the other, she/he may not be declared the winner if the election violates the provisions set out in article 4.2.1 (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4).

The Vice-President and the Treasurer are elected by secret ballot or by consensus of the Executive Committee at its first meeting following the General Assembly.

In the case of a tie vote between two candidates, the winner is the longer-serving member of the EMHRN.

If one candidate obtains more votes than the other, she/he may not be declared the winner if the election violates the provisions set out in article 4.2.1 (paragraph 6).

4.2.5. Dismissal, Incapacity, Resignation and Loss of Mandate of Executive Committee Members

An Extraordinary General Assembly may decide by an absolute majority of Members present or represented, and by secret ballot, to dismiss any member of the Executive Committee, provided the said member has been given an opportunity to provide an explanation.

Any member of the Executive Committee who, without cause deemed valid, has not attended three successive meetings of the Executive Committee, may be dismissed from her/his duties.

Such dismissal is decided upon by secret ballot, after the Executive Committee member concerned has been given an opportunity to provide an explanation, by absolute majority of the members of the Executive Committee present. The member being voted on may take part in the vote.

A Regular Member whose representative has been dismissed from the Executive Committee because of repeated absences may not put forward a candidate at the next General Assembly.

When a member of the Executive Committee is dismissed, she/he is not replaced.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

If the representative of a Member is unable to fulfil his/her duties or is no longer mandated by the Member he/she represents, the Executive Committee asks the Member to appoint another representative. If another representative is not appointed within a reasonable time limit, the Member is deemed to have resigned.

The Executive Committee formally acknowledges this situation by informing the Member concerned as well as all other Members.

If, for any reason, the President is unable to carry out his/her duties, the Vice-President assumes the duties of the President until the next General Assembly. In such circumstances, the Executive Committee elects a Vice President.

4.2.6. Meetings, Quorum and Agenda

The Executive Committee meets at least three times a year in addition to the meeting that takes place immediately following the election of its members at the General Assembly.

Additional meetings may take place upon a decision of the President or upon a request by one third of Committee members.

The deliberations of the Executive Committee are valid only if at least six of its members are present. An Executive Committee member may not vote by proxy on behalf of another member.

If there is no clear consensus, decisions are made by simple majority of the members present. In the case of a tie vote, the President may cast the deciding vote.

The members of the Executive Committee are advised of Committee meetings at least 30 days in advance and receive a provisional agenda upon such notification. The final agenda and any necessary documents must reach Committee members at least ten days before the meeting.

In cases of emergency, Executive Committee members may be consulted in writing on a specific subject at the initiative of the President. This may be done by email. The absence of any reply to the question within an agreed time limit is deemed to signify approval.

4.2.7. Powers of the Executive Committee and of its Members

The Executive Committee implements the decisions of the General Assembly.

Subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, between meetings of that body, issues general guidelines governing EMHRN activities and consults with Regular Members on important issues relating to Network policy. In particular, the Executive Committee is responsible for carrying out the following activities:

- a) Preparing the program of activities for three years, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its next meeting.
- b) Developing a provisional three-year budget for the Network.
- c) Preparing the activity report and financial report of the EMHRN.
- d) Establishing working groups and, as needed, ad hoc or permanent task forces charged with developing specific programmes or policies, providing advice to the Executive Committee, and ensuring the effective implementation of the mandate and agenda of the EMHRN.
- e) Supervising the work of the various EMHRN structures and working groups with specific assignments.
- f) Improving and facilitating communications among EMHRN Members, between the EMHRN and the institutions of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, as well as with all institutions interested in this area.
- g) Exercising all the powers that do not fall specifically within the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.

When action by the General Assembly is required but time constraints prevent the convening of a General Assembly meeting, the Executive Committee has the authority to make the relevant decision after consulting Regular Members. That decision must be ratified by the General Assembly at a later date.

The division of tasks among members of the Executive Committee takes place at its first meeting.

The President represents the EMHRN and oversees the effective operation of the Network in consultation with the Executive Committee. The President is responsible for the development and implementation of EMHRN policies. The President represents the EMHRN at any legal proceedings that may arise. Between meetings of the Executive Committee, the President is responsible for supervising the work of the Executive Director and the Secretariat in accordance with the policies developed at any given time by the Executive Committee.

The Vice-President acts on behalf of the President in the latter's absence. The Vice-President assists the President in carrying out his/her duties. The Vice-President exercises his/her own responsibility in policy areas determined by the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer oversees the financial development and management of the Network in close consultation with the Executive Committee and the Executive Director. He/she reports to the Executive Committee at its meetings. The Treasurer must also present the financial report at the General Assembly meeting.

5. Secretariat

The Secretariat includes all the salaried employees of the EMHRN.

5.1. Executive Director

The Executive Director is appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Director is entitled to attend Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity, as well as the meetings of all other EMHRN bodies.

The Executive Director is involved in developing the EMHRN's action plan, provisional budget and various activities.

The Executive Director is in charge of the Secretariat staff. She/he hires and lays off salaried employees, in close cooperation with the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer.

The Executive Director organises the work of the Secretariat and manages its day-to-day activities.

5.2. Secretariat

The Secretariat is the operational bureau of the EMHRN. It is responsible for putting into practice the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. It prepares the work of the Executive Committee and working groups and ensures liaison among EMHRN members.

6. Financial Matters

6.1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

6.2. Financial Commitments

The Executive Committee, the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Director may, individually or as a group, commit the EMHRN financially in accordance with the following dispositions:

- The Executive Committee has the sole authority for purchasing or selling real estate and contracting a mortgage relating to the purchase of said property. It may be consulted in writing to that end.
- Contracts with, and funding requests to donors for amounts between 10,000 and 30,000 € are concluded and signed by the Executive Director with the concurrence of the Treasurer. Contracts and

requests for amounts exceeding 30.000 € are concluded and signed by the Executive Director with the concurrence of the President and the Treasurer.

- The Executive Director may sign alone for the day-to-day expenses of the EMHRN, providing these expenses remain within the limits of the budget adopted by the Executive Committee. He/she is responsible for managing the EMHRN cash flow.
- The Executive Director may authorise a member of the Secretariat to spend money relating to day-to-day matters within the limits of the budget adopted by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is kept informed about contracts concluded with donors, the hiring and laying-off of salaried employees and all other matters likely to impact upon EMHRN activities.

6.3. Budget

Apart from the three-year budget adopted by the General Assembly, the Executive Committee adopts a provisional annual budget at its first meeting.

6.4 Financial control

Financial accounts must be prepared in accordance with the accepted standards of the country in which EMHRN headquarters are located and with standards that are also acceptable to donors.

Every fiscal year, the auditor draws up and submits a report to the Executive Committee.

The auditor is invited to attend the General Assembly and submit a report for the past three fiscal years.

Between General Assembly meetings, the Executive Committee presides over the accounts and the auditor's report.

7. Amendment of the Statutes and Dissolution

7.1. Amendment of the Statutes

Only the General Assembly can amend these Statutes.

To be admissible for discussion by the General Assembly, proposed amendments to the Statutes must be submitted by the EMHRN's Executive Committee or by one fifth of Regular Members of the EMHRN in accordance within the time limits set out below.

The General Assembly cannot discuss any other amendments, including alternatives to the amendments submitted for discussion in the statutory manner and time limits.

The Executive Committee informs EMHRN Members of any amendments to the Statutes that it wishes to propose or that it has received, at least 75 days before the first day of the General Assembly.

Regular Members of the EMHRN have a deadline of 45 days before the first day of the General Assembly to offer their opinions, submit new amendments or amend the proposed amendments.

At least 30 days before the first day of the General Assembly, a report drawn up by the Executive Committee and including amendments proposed by the Executive Committee and those proposed by at least one fifth of Regular Members is sent out to EMHRN Members.

Following the quorum conditions prescribed for General Assembly meetings, the General Assembly delivers a ruling with a two-thirds majority of Members present or represented.

7.2. Dissolution

The EMHRN can only be dissolved after an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly has been convened.

A proposal to dissolve the EMHRN can only be made by the Executive Committee.

Dissolution can only be declared if two thirds of the Members are present or represented at the first meeting convened. If quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly meeting may be convened. In that event, the Assembly's deliberations are deemed valid regardless of the number of Members present or represented.

This second meeting may be convened at the same time as the first meeting and the second General Assembly meeting may take place immediately after the first.

In the event of dissolution, and after liquidation of liabilities, any possible profit after liquidation may, together with the EMHRN's assets, be donated to another not-for-profit, non-partisan organisation devoted to the defence and protection of human rights.

8. Bylaws

A set of Bylaws may complement the conditions for applying the Statutes.

The Executive Committee adopts the Bylaws with a two-thirds majority of its members.

EMHRN Members are informed about the Bylaws.

9. Temporary Provisions

These Statutes shall enter into force as of the General Assembly held in December 2008, subject to the temporary provisions set out below.

With respect to terms served, the number of terms served since the General Assembly held on 6th December 2003 is deemed to be the standard used.

If, however, an Executive Committee member who is outgoing at the General Assembly of December 2008 (excluding the outgoing President) is elected to the position of President at the General Assembly of December 2008, the provisions set out in article 4.2.2 (paragraph 2) shall apply.

Appendix 7: Work program 2008-2010

**EMHRN WORK PROGRAM FOR 2008-2010
Barcelona December 12-14 2008**

Index

1.Introduction.....	149
1.1 The Human Rights Situation	149
1.2 The EMHRN	150
2.Adjusting the EMHRN Work Program	150
2.1.Concerning the region.....	150
2.2.Concerning the EMHRN	151
2.3.The Work Programme 2008-2010	152
3.Activity report	153
3.1.Human Rights and Democratisation.....	153
3.1.1Freedom of Association.....	153
3.1.2The Independence and the Impartiality of the Judiciary	154
3.1.3Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Mainstreaming	155
3.1.4Human Rights Education (HRE)	156
3.2.Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings	157
3.2.1Palestine, Israel and Palestinians.....	157
3.2.2The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers	158
3.2.3Economic and social rights	159
4.Communication	160
5.Membership support.....	160
5.1.Solidarity	160
5.2.Training.....	161
6.Advocacy and dialogue	161
7.Partnerships.....	162
8.Executive Bodies and memberships.....	163
9.Administration	164

15. Introduction

This document provides presents the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network's (EMHRN) work program for 2008 to 2010.

It is based on the EMHRN Strategy document (2006-2010) adopted at the 7th general assembly in Madrid 2006 and follows-up on the Work program for 2006-2008 adopted at the same occasion..

These documents were built on an analysis of the human rights situation in the region and of the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the EU in terms of human rights. They were also built on a presentation of the EMHRN itself identifying its core vision, mission and values.

The present document starts with a summary of the Strategy and past Work program. It thereafter proceeds with a presentation of how the EMHRN intends to adjust its work in the light of 2006 and 2007 developments. Then the different elements of the work program are presented.

1.1 The Human Rights Situation

In its Strategy Document and Work program, the EMHRN acknowledged that some human rights progress had taken place in parts of the region and it took note of the momentum created for democracy movements by outside pressure.

Nevertheless the overall conclusion was that the region is still plagued by severe problems: conflicts and war; regular and systematic violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and democratic principles; erosion of civil and political rights; structural problems within the judiciaries; lack of institutional capacity to sustain reform such as women's participation in public life; exclusion of youth from decision-making; increased barriers to migration and human exchange having serious effects on rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, etc.

With regard to the Barcelona process it was noted that there is a serious gap between the declared commitments to human rights in the Barcelona Declaration and the human rights situation in the region. There are also serious discrepancies between the human rights instruments set in place and the lack of implementation of these. In fact, and with few exceptions, it is difficult to say that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership led to improvements of the human rights situation in the region.

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

On the basis of this analysis the EMHRN decided to work on two issues of primordial importance for the future of the region, namely the question of *human rights and democratisation* and the question of setting human rights and humanitarian law at the centre of initiatives aimed at improving *the security of human beings*.

The EMHRN identified strategic entry points to deal with these matters¹⁸, namely

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

¹⁸ Based on an analysis of ongoing initiatives in the region aimed at avoiding duplication

- Concerning the Security of Human Beings:
 - The Middle East Conflict
 - The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 - Economic and Social Rights

At the same time the EMHRN members agreed that influencing the EMP, the ENP and EU human rights instruments would be an important mean to produce positive human rights results on the ground.

1.2 The EMHRN

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

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

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

It further agreed that the establishing and running of thematic working groups composed of member organisations should be a core methodology of the EMHRN as past experience and independent evaluations show that working groups enhance

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

The GA decided to further develop working groups in the above mentioned areas and proposed specific projects each working group would implement in order to structure its work while providing them with space and time to develop internal and external dynamics of their own.

These networking efforts was to be sustained by advocacy activities vis-à-vis the EMP, ENP and EU institutions, efforts to build partnerships beyond the human rights community as well as actions of solidarity and support when members or their activities were in crisis – including close cooperation with the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF).

16. Adjusting the EMHRN Work Program

One and a half year after the adoption of the EMHRN strategy paper and work program many of the points made above remain valid. However, important changes also took place in the region and within the EMHRN which need to be considered when initiating the coming three year work period.

2.1. Concerning the region

Since the EMHRN General Assembly all talk of an Arabic spring in terms of democracy seemed to die out and human rights discourse became significantly weakened. South and East Mediterranean civil society was increasingly caught in geo-politic tensions beyond its reach. This was primarily due to the situation in Iraq (and indications that the US in order to get out of Iraq is bound to compromise with current Arab regimes); the growing tension between the US (and Arab allies) and Iran; and the effects of conglomerate sets of factors such as the worsened situation in Israel- Palestine, strengthened Islamist movements; and the waged 'fight against terrorism'.

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

Human rights respect decreased in the EuroMed region since 2006. In this regard the response to the growing refugee crisis and migrant fluxes is worrying (i.e. the displacement of 1,7 million Iraqi refugees; the worsened situation of Palestinian refugees; human rights violations experienced by Sudanese refugees in Egypt and Sub-Saharan migrants and asylum seekers in North Africa). With few exceptions, large parts of Europe reacted to these facts on the ground by increased criminalizing of undocumented migrants and sought to circumvent its own responsibilities by externalising forced migrant protection through measures of open sea interceptions, frontier control and the like.

The past two and half year witnessed a growing disillusion by civil society with the EU as a human rights and democracy promoter in the EuroMed region as Europe seems unable to mobilize political means and actions to bring the region out of the current turmoil.

The almost complete silence about the human rights situation in the South Mediterranean when launching the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean on 13 July 2008 led to further discomfort about the role played by the EU in the region.

In addition, although the ENP does provide new instruments and technical possibilities to promote human rights, the latest regional and national strategy plans and National Indicative Programs brought comfort to the current regimes in place rather than challenging them on discrepancies between their current practice and their commitments to human rights and democratic principles.

2.2. Concerning the EMHRN

Since early 2006 the EMHRN was busy implementing its work program in an inclusive and participatory process while growing in terms of organisation and staff.

In the first months of 2006 the Executive Committee finalised a draft strategy document and work program and presented these to the General Assembly (GA) in May 2006. The GA welcomed the documents where after the EMHRN launched a call for participation in its working groups with clear and transparent criteria for admission of participants. By the end of 2006 about 90 human rights defenders were active in the EMHRN's working groups on freedom of association; justice; gender; human rights education; Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians; and Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (while the EMHRN explored the possibility of establishing a working group on economic and social rights), producing reports, taking advocacy initiatives and generating synergies and new encounters. At the same time the EMHRN opened antennas in Jordan and Morocco (in addition to its office in Brussels) while conducting training seminars and public encounters on the European Neighbourhood policy in selected South Mediterranean countries.

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

However, this emphasis and the parallel launch of specific projects within each working group meant that the EMHRN only to a smaller degree was able to react to current issues and members' urgent concerns, as well as communicating its positions and doings to the outside world. The focus on project and working group management also meant that coherence and overview stood in danger of being lost.

The EMHRN believes that the mid-term and long term work initiated by the working groups and their activities should be consolidated in 2008, 2009 and 2010. They provide and sustain basic human rights work in a time where human rights are under increased attack; they give sustainability to the work of the EMHRN and help build capacity to human rights organisations within their field of specialisation. They deserve and need time to grow and develop and to show the expected results over the next coming years.

However, the EMHRN also wish to correct deficiencies and adjust its work to the political changes that took place.

2.3. The Work Programme 2008-2010

The past year development poses challenges to human rights defenders in the region who struggle to identify adequate response strategies.

The EMHRN will organise its 8th general assembly by the end of 2008 and a main item will be to discuss ways forward in the light of the growing disillusion with Europe and marginalisation of human rights discourse in the South.

The EMHRN believes that the choice of working on democratisation and the security of human beings in the EuroMed region remain valid for the region. Hence, it will continue work within its current areas of activities: freedom of association; justice; gender; human rights education; Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians; and Migrants, Refugees and Asylum seekers; and economic and social rights.

It suggest to add more coherence to that work by increasingly focussing on how the development of democracy and the security of human beings within the thematic field of work of the EMHRN and EMP, ENP and EU policies relate to one another. It is expected that such synthetic analysis will help human rights organisations – and hopefully decision makers – to strategize their work in relation to EuroMed policies.

It also suggested initiating exploring other avenues for regional advocacy work that is complementary to the EMHRN's current work on the EU such as the identifying added values of the Network addressing international agendas such as those of the UN human rights bodies, or regional bodies such as the Arab League.

The EMHRN will also explore ways to promote the role of young people and make their presence, contributions and interests in human rights work more visible

Finally, the EMHRN will improve its capacity to address short term issues by down scaling the 'project load' of the working groups while providing them with more time and resources to respond to immediate concerns and campaigns of members (and other human rights NGOs). In addition it will develop its solidarity work, and also facilitate the EMHRN's and the working groups' capacity to react to changing circumstances by providing the Network with regular briefs about key human rights developments in the region.

The following pages move into the EMHRN work programme and sets out activities to be carried out over the next three years.

The work programme basically aims at 'giving flesh' to the EMHRN strategy¹⁹ while adapting it to the changes that took place in the region since the strategy was adopted. It aims at

- Strengthening the EMHRN members' capacity to promote and protect human rights at the local and regional level through strategic interventions in the following areas:
 - Human Rights and Democratisation:
 - Freedom of Association,
 - Justice,
 - Women's Rights
 - Human Rights Education and Addressing Young People
 - The Security of Human Beings:
 - The Middle East Conflict
 - The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 - Economic and Social Rights

19 Cf. www.euromedrights.net

- Using and monitoring the human rights and democratisation instruments of the EU, the ENP and the EMP where relevant and increasing members' and local NGO capacity to act in this regard.
- Developing membership support instruments in the field of solidarity and training.
- Engaging in and stimulating networking and partnerships beyond the network at regional and local level
- Engaging the media in the work of the EMHRN and its members
- Engaging in and stimulating discussions and debate about the overall development in the region and response strategies in this regard
- Maintaining and developing a high level of ownership by members of EMHRN activities, as well as transparency and democratic principles in the executive bodies and administration of the Network . This includes the systematic implementation of gender mainstreaming into the EMHRN's activities.

An external evaluation of the EMHRN's work will be carried out while implementing activities helping the EMHRN to readjust and strengthen the implementation where needed. .

3. Activity report

3.1. Human Rights and Democratisation

3.1.1 Freedom of Association

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of human rights values and international standards pertaining to freedom of association in the EuroMed region.*

*The **general objective** is to develop capacity for sustained civil society monitoring, expertise and action on freedom of association conducive to change in legislation - in particular in the South and East Mediterranean area - where relevant and, by extension, conducive to democratic reform.*

*The **short term objective** is to further develop the establishing of a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association and, through networking, increasing NGOs capacity to work on this issue within their constituencies. A short term objective is also to support ongoing work and campaigns of members and partners on freedom of association, and advocacy and media work in this regard*

Background

Freedom of association is a key to human rights promotion and protection, ensuring the dignity of individuals by allowing them full participation in societal life. It is crucial for the development of democratic institutions: political pluralism, trade unions, civil society etc, and for human rights defenders' ability to engage in promoting a human rights culture. It is an indicator of democracy development and of the level of repression of civil society and human rights defenders. It is therefore important to set it high on civil society agendas.

The EMHRN has established a Working group on Freedom of Association and the publication of two Annual reports on Freedom of Association has been successfully completed, including points for measuring progress or setbacks on a country level as well as recommendations for action. The reports are developed by the Working group which has been increasingly active in monitoring new developments in the region and supporting local NGO work.

The Activities

The project will follow-up on ongoing work by:

4. Drafting annual reviews on the situation of freedom of association in legislation and practice – including proposals for ways/indicators to measure progress or setbacks; the reports are meant to regularly set

the question of freedom of association on the agenda of decision makers, NGOs and media in the region.

5. Organising working group meetings for EMHRN members and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region aimed at developing regional networking. In this regard The EMHRN will liaise with other regional and local initiatives in the region.
6. Developing and maintaining a section on freedom of association on the EMHRN's web site.
7. Dissemination of the results of its monitoring activities to the media, civil society groups and governments while support ongoing actions and campaigns by civil society

3.1.2 The Independence and the Impartiality of the Judiciary

Objectives

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

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

The **short term objective** is to further develop and sustain spaces for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in order to support processes and initiatives towards reform.

Background

The South Mediterranean countries suffer from deficits in their judiciary systems. In most cases the judiciaries do not assume their role according to rule of law principles; they are institutionally allied to the political power in place whilst playing a complementary role to the police in repressing rights and fundamental freedoms.

A 'vicious circle' exists, whereby the judiciary helps maintaining authoritarian and non-democratic regimes in place while such regimes are instrumental in blocking reform towards greater independence of the judiciary. In this context, the developing of spaces for free debate between civil society, lawyers, magistrates, etc. on questions relating to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is a way forward.

The EMHRN has initiated a process of supporting free debate on the reform of the Judiciary in the region. It successfully conducted seminars in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, and (outside) Tunisia attended by judges, lawyers, NGOs and government representatives. In each of the mentioned countries experts drafted reports on the question of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary aimed producing an overview of the situation as well as recommendations for reform initiatives at the national level.

The EMHRN also conducted a study of reform initiatives undertaken by governments and inter-governmental institutions (EU, UNDP, World Bank, etc.). The national reports and the regional overview were presented at a regional seminar in Brussels early 2008.

Finally, the EMHRN, in cooperation with other international organisations, followed efforts by Arab magistrates (led by Egyptian judges) to create an independent Arab union of judges and find it important to support this initiative.

Activities

The EMHRN believes it succeeded in starting-up a promising process around the question of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary that it is important to consolidate and develop. Hence, the proposed activities involve extension and follow-up to the ongoing activities by

- Conducting national meetings in Egypt and Algeria similar to the ones conducted in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. They will aim at stimulating debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and also promote the drafting of a national report on this question.
- Organising follow-up seminars where feasible in the target countries aimed at presenting the

national reports and recommendations for reform.

- Promoting and supporting the efforts to establish an Arab union of judges *inter alia* by inviting judges active in these efforts to take part in the above-mentioned seminars, and otherwise allowing them to meet with fellow magistrates in the Arab countries to prepare for the establishment of the said Union.
- Conducting regional working group meetings on the judiciary twice a year aimed at ensuring coordination by stakeholders of the above process, developing synergies between the various activities and developing/sustaining a regional civil society perspective on developments in the field of justice. A particular focus will lie on the question of justice and counter-terrorism measures and the inter-linkages between the North and the South of the Mediterranean in that regard.
- A task of the Working group will be to explore the idea of creating a pool of trial observation teams that will monitor trials that are emblematic for the situation of the judiciaries in the region. Trial missions will have an important function as a protection mechanism, as stimulating debates about the judiciaries and building civil society capacity to monitor the judiciaries.

3.1.3 Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

Objectives

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

The **general objective** is that key civil society networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region effectively monitor government policies within the process of achieving gender equality within the context of the Barcelona Process. Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy EuroMed region and actively integrate gender mainstreaming into their work.

The **short term objectives** are to:

- Further enhance knowledge of gender mainstreaming and the capacity of NGOs to integrate it into daily work;
- Further promote cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks to promote gender equality within their organisations
- Further increase awareness about gender discrimination in the region and monitor public policies in this regard, in particular the Istanbul Action Plan on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.

Background

Gender equality and mainstreaming is another key issue for democracy. There are no human rights without women's rights and there is no democratic reform without gender equality and anti discrimination. Women's rights cannot advance if human rights discourse does not embrace men and women equally. Several reports have documented wide gaps between human rights standards and realities concerning women in the EuroMed region

At the same time, women's rights groups have emerged as vibrant, innovate and efficient civil society groups in terms of networking, advocacy and public awareness raising, and several initiatives exist on a regional level. However, the promotion of women's rights and gender equality suffers from the non-integration of women's rights issues into general human rights and civil society activities. Women's rights issues tend to be discussed only by women, and women's networks live separate lives from generalist human rights informal or formal networks. This is why special initiatives regarding rights based approach to gender equality and mainstreaming are needed and can bring added value to ongoing work.

In this context the EMHRN welcomed that the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on 'Strengthening the Role of Women in Society', under the auspices of the Finnish Presidency (November 2006), succeeded in adopting a common platform for promoting gender equality in the region. The Plan contains reference to shared international, regional, and national commitments of the EMP partners, not the least the reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Also the Partners' committed themselves to achieving gender equality, preventing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the protection of rights of women. Finally, the Plan incorporates a review mechanism.

The activities

The EMHRN has established a WG on women's rights and it is in the process of organising training courses on gender mainstreaming for NGOs. The EMHRN was also very active in advocating for a strong Action Plan in Istanbul. The EMHRN wishes to consolidate and develop these activities and suggest to:

- Strengthen networking and gender mainstreaming by conducting bi-annual working group meetings in order to discuss, monitor and implement the following:

- Promoting gender mainstreaming and in this regard conducting training courses for human rights and civil society organisations
- Promoting gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN organisations and executive bodies
- Supporting civil society campaigns and initiatives pertaining to gender equality and women's rights (such as the campaign on lifting the reservations to the CEDAW)
- Monitoring the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean, the European Neighbourhood Policy and other governmental policies relevant for the region. Monitoring should in particular target the Action Plan on 'Strengthening the Role of Women in Society', adopted by the EuroMed Partners in Istanbul, November 2006. In this regard the EMHRN aims at contributing actively to the agenda of the 2009 EuroMed Follow-up Conference to the Istanbul meeting.
- Maintaining an EMHRN antenna in Jordan to deal with gender issue in the EuroMed region.

3.1.4 Human Rights Education (HRE)

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this project is to ensure broad dissemination of a human rights culture and values in the EuroMed region through educational activities.

The **general objective** is to generalise networking of human rights NGO in the field of education and develop their capacity to deliver and advocate for learning rooted in human rights based values as well as policies in this regard

The **short term objective** is to

- Further develop networking among human rights NGOs dealing with HRE in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- Engage NGOs in systematic exchange about methodologies and approaches for human rights based learning
- Engage NGOs in assessing public policies regarding HRE and how to impact on these as civil society

Background

There is no genuine human rights respect and no democracy without the dissemination of a human rights culture. Today much is left to do in the region as a whole in order to develop a genuine human rights culture due to oppressive environments, double standards of *Realpolitik*, lack of development and the impacts of globalisation.

A recent survey, Human Rights Education in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, commissioned by the EMHRN reports about a number of good practices among NGOs engaged in HRE. However it also shows a widespread lack of consistency and sustainability in the work being done. Many NGOs do not have a clear vision of their work or feasible, practical strategies. Only few organisations display a systematic approach in developing and adapting educational methodologies to their work and many are weak, and under-resourced when doing human rights education.

Developing networking and exchanges among NGOs engaged in human rights education are important entry points in this regard.

The Activities

The EMHRN has established a working group on human rights education that has been engaged in mutual exchanges about educational methodologies and in organising several Summer Schools for young human rights activists. The last Summer school produced a HRE resource and established an informal alumni network. The EMHRN also took the initiative to initiate an informal network of organisers of human rights Summer Schools in the EuroMed region aimed at exchanging experiences, cooperating on identifying and exchanging trainers.

The EMHRN wishes to continue ongoing work and organising

- Bi-annual regional working group meetings aimed at
 - Promoting networking of NGOs engaged in human rights education, inter alia through seeking to organise a series of seminars dealing with the problem areas identified by the EMHRN report on Human Rights Education in the Euro-Mediterranean Region
 - Discussing and exchanging educational methodologies
 - Discussing and monitoring public policies regarding human rights education
 - Supporting campaigns and initiatives of civil society in the region
 - Preparing an annual Summer School on Human Rights Education being testing grounds for networking and developing of educational methodologies.

In addition the EMHRN wishes to support the informal network of Summer School organisers and eventual informal networks coming out the Summer Schools by facilitating contacts and exchanges and occasional meetings.

3.2. Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

3.2.1 Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

Objectives

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

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

*The **short term objective** is to further develop the activities of the EMHRN WG on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine.*

The Mediterranean area is torn by conflicts. It is the region in the world hosting one of the largest numbers of refugees per capita. The most enduring conflict is the Middle East conflict. It is emblematic of the region and a main reason for the stalemate of the EMP. Like other conflicts, it has suffered from the failure of the conflicting parties and the great powers to place respect for human rights and international humanitarian law at the heart of conflict prevention, management and resolution. Promoting respect for human rights and international humanitarian law is crucial for the Middle East in particular and for the region in general.

The EMHRN members have agreed that the EMHRN can bring added value to current human rights advocacy and awareness raising by concentrating on advocacy and lobbying efforts in Europe in cooperation with its Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and European members as well as other civil society partners. The EMHRN working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (composed of Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and European NGOs), its reports and missions has increasingly become a reference point for advocacy in Europe. Also EMHRN work on the European Neighbourhood Policy in relation to Israel has gained recognition.

Activities

The activity consists in consolidating and developing current activity and involves:

- Working group meetings strengthening the capacity of the Working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians to become a key vehicle for advocating a human rights approach to the conflict and to occupation.
- Researching and publicising reports on the relations between the EU, Israel and Palestine dealing with key human rights issues in the OPT and inside Israel; How the EU (EP, Commission and Council plus member states) deals with and reacts to these developments; and critical analysing whether the EU complies with its obligations according to its own treaties, international law and EU Guide Lines on Human Rights
- Developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved to advocate within the framework of the EMP and ENP and to find their way within the EU institutions and their policies (in Brussels as well as EU delegations)
- Developing cooperation with other civil society organisations promoting respect for human rights, international law and international humanitarian law in relation to the situation in Israel and Palestine

The activities will have a focus on the situation in GAZA and will be supplemented by missions when deemed relevant.

3.2.2 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Objectives

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

The **general objective** is to:

- Strengthen regional civil society cooperation on policies, projects and exchange of information related to the rights of migrants and refugees.
- Engage in dialogue with governments and EU institutions on questions relating to human rights, migration, refugee and asylum issues
- Develop the capacity of local organisations in the South Mediterranean to handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.

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

Further develop a human rights based civil society platform for cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers including the setting-up of alert missions on emblematic cases of violations of migrants or asylum seekers rights.

Background

Promoting Migrants', Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' rights is equal to bringing human rights concerns to the centre of EuroMed relations. The level of protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is a key indicator of the EMP governments' readiness to place human exchange and interaction above narrow (soft) security interests and to engage in genuine partnerships. The management of migration and refugee protection is also an indicator of their willingness to share responsibilities and to comply with human rights when they are the most needed, i.e. when people are in a vulnerable situation, at risk and in need of help.

Only a few Centres or NGOs in the South Mediterranean region deal with the migrants', asylum seekers' and refugees' situation. Also, there has been little interchange between actors such as human rights organisations in the South, migrant and refugee organisations in Europe, and European refugee councils. There is a need to bring relevant NGOs together in a regional context to engage in dialogue on how to deal with migration and asylum seekers and to broaden the capacity of NGOs in the South to deal with these matters.

The basic aim of the project is to contribute to developing an NGO 'infrastructure' of knowledge and partnership on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; to provide spaces for discussion and exchange on these issues; and to prepare training and education that would help building up capacity in the region.

Activities

The EMHRN has already initiated a working group on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Based on amongst other fact finding research reports and training on EU policies the WG is starting to build up a common agenda. The EMHRN has also launched a regional Migration and Alert Mission instrument to act on emblematic cases of violation of migrants and asylum seekers rights. The EMHRN wish to consolidate and develop this process and plans to

- Hold two regional working group meetings per year with the aim of:
 - Exchanging information about participants' work and increasing mutual knowledge thereof
 - Conducting training about the EU and developing human rights response to these policies including monitoring the follow-up to the EuroMed Ministerial meeting on migration
 - Identifying joint projects between the participants
- Monitoring research and publication of reports
- Organising sub regional meetings in order to strengthen sub regional networking
- Implementing a regional Migration and Asylum Alert mission mechanism regarding emblematic cases of violations of migrants and asylum seekers rights
- Drafting and publishing country fact sheets and publishing newsletters on migration and refugees
- Maintaining an EMHRN antenna in Morocco to deal with refugee and migration issues in the EuroMed region

3.2.3 Economic and social rights

Objectives

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

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

*The **short term objective** is to initiate a process of training NGOs on action based approaches to economic and social rights in the region*

Background

Human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. For historical reasons, human rights organisations in the EuroMed region have paid more attention to civil and political rights than to economic and social rights. However, social and economic inequalities between and within countries of the region are blatant. During the coming decade the establishment of the Free Trade Zone will have a major impact on the social and economic conditions of people in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. It risks – at least in the short term - harming people's economic and social rights (the right to work, to housing, to education, to health, etc.) and, by extension, people's ability to exercise their political and civil rights. In this sense it is important to develop instruments to monitor economic and social developments from a human rights perspective both at international, regional and local level.

Activities

The EMHRN has conducted several activities within the field of economic and social rights. Lately it cooperated with the Comisiones Obrerós and the EuroMed Trade Union Forum on a project on Employment and the Right to Work in the EuroMed Region. The EMHRN will explore the possibility of establishing a Working group on economic and social rights and look into ways of mainstreaming economic and social rights concerns into the dealings of the other Working groups. In addition, the EMHRN will explore possibility of producing a practical resource on economic and social rights that could be used by NGOs in the region to take concrete steps to secure better economic and social rights enforcement in the region. The resource would include a legal base in order to promote the justiciability of economic and social rights and also have a focus on broader advocacy and campaigning techniques.

4. Communication

Objectives

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

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

The **short term objective** is to;

- Develop the necessary resources to fulfil the general objectives
- This includes developing the web site as reflecting the work of members and the main human rights issues in the region, the EMP and ENP

Background

EMHRN Networking is dependent on efficient and relevant modes of communication between members as well as between the Network, civil society, media and decision makers in the EuroMed region. All General Assemblies of the EMHRN have underlined the need to strengthen the EMHRN's internal and external communication in order to increase transparency and members' participation in EMHRN work as well as awareness in the media about the work of the EMHRN. It has also underlined the importance of voicing the EMHRN's position with regard to current human rights developments.

Activities

The EMHRN will:

- Maintain a full time position of the communication officer in Copenhagen in charge of the EMHRN's internal and external communication to full time.
- Employ a communication officer in Cairo responsible for relations with the Arab media and the Arab pages of the EMHRN's web site
- Seek to identify resources for employing a media officer in Brussels
- On the executive level, strengthen its work in terms of monitoring, reacting and communicating to the outside world about civil society concerns related to the human rights situation in the region.
- Issue news briefings and newsletters with information from members and about the latest human rights developments in the EuroMed region, the EU, etc.
- Proactively contact members in order to exchange information and increasingly target specific news to specific needs
- Develop and maintain its new web site and build-up additional thematic modules

5. Membership support

5.1. Solidarity

Objectives

The **human rights framework** is the respect by state and non-state actors of the principles of the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (UN 9 December 1998)

The **general objective** is to

- ensure that EMHRN members experience that the Network constitutes a protection mechanism for them
- make use of available human rights protection instruments when EMHRN members partners are at risk

The **short term objective** is to identify and implement modes to do systematic solidarity work when EMHRN members or their work are at risk

Background

The EMHRN is convinced that solidarity plays a major role for protecting human rights defenders and for promoting networking, cooperation and internal cohesion. Since it was established, the EMHRN worked to strengthen bonds of solidarity between its members. Amongst other it established the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders which is now hosted by the Network.

The EMHRN believes that human rights defenders and organisations joining the Network should feel protected by the membership through acts of solidarity when they or their work are at risk. The EMHRN is in particular concerned with the situation in Algeria, Syria and Tunisia where civil society (for a number of reasons) is amongst the the weakest and/or under greatest pressure.

Activities

In this respect the EMHRN will:

- Employ a full time coordinator to deal with solidarity actions – in particular in relation to Algeria, Syria and Tunisia, including organising regular missions as well as meetings with human rights defenders
- Allocate time for each coordinator in the staff to deal with urgent interventions within his/her remit and activate the working groups in this regard
- Draft a concept paper on its policy and practice as regards solidarity work and urgent action
- On the executive level, strengthen its work regarding monitoring and responding to changes of the human rights situation in the region
- Maintain close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

5.2. Training

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of the activity is to create human rights training tools adapted to the context in the Euro-Mediterranean region where these do not exist aimed at strengthening human rights activists capacity to deliver human rights work within a EuroMed context.*

*The **general objective** is to create synergies between different training and capacity building efforts within the Network and fill-in gaps where these exist*

*The **short term objective** is to set up a first series of training courses while visualising the training activities of the members*

Background

The EMHRN conducted several training courses for its members, most recently on the European Neighbourhood Policy and Gender Mainstreaming. Training focuses on human rights issues that are relevant for the region and not covered elsewhere. Many EMHRN members are also engaged in training activities.

Activities

The EMHRN will

- Establish an overview over planned training and capacity building activities within the membership and see where there are obvious synergies to be established
- Implement training and advocacy activities on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (see below, point 6)
- Conduct training course with member organisations on gender mainstreaming (see above, point 3.1.3)
- Look into possibility of developing a practical resource on economic and social rights in a EuroMed context (see above)

6. Advocacy and dialogue

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** is the EU, ENP and Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean Process (BP:UMP) instruments pertaining to international human rights standards in the EuroMed region*

The **general objective** is to efficiently communicate EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU, ENP and BP:UMP and ensure feed-back from and dialogue with these on human rights. It is also to ensure that EMHRN members are aware of these and can benefit from this knowledge in their human rights work.

The **short term objective** is to further develop EMHRN advocacy activities in relation to the EU, ENP and BP:UMP and its function as an interface between EMHRN members and the said institutions.

Background

When working within the context of EU, ENP and BP: UMP policies, it is important to feed the outcome of the EMHRN's and its members' activities into these mechanisms as a means to promote human rights protection on the ground

Dialogue and advocacy are important methods for promoting human rights. The EMHRN directs critical attention towards the mechanisms of the BP: UMP, the ENP, and the EU. The EMHRN gives particular attention to bi-lateral relations (between the EU and individual Partner States) as these are currently more conducive to change than multi-lateral relations. The EMHRN has produced a guide to human rights in the Barcelona process , the ENP and the EU and successfully conducted training courses and public meetings on these entities in Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and in Morocco. In this connection the EMHRN members in several countries have expressed a growing interest in and critical approach to the role played by the EU and the (lack of) implementation of existing human rights mechanisms.

Activities

The EMHRN will

- Maintain an interface between the EU, ENP, and BP:UUMP and its members through its office in Brussels, including organising visits of members to Brussels; continuing promoting its general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the BP: UMP, the EU and partner governments; disseminate reports and policy papers produced by its working groups and mission teams while promoting their recommendations; diffusing information on the Web and in news letters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP.
- Conduct training courses in the region on the human rights instruments in the EU, ENP and BP: UMP aimed at strengthening civil society capacity to deal critically with EU, BP:UMP and ENP human rights instruments and South Mediterranean countries' human rights policies. Update training materials in this regard.
- Expand its advocacy and lobby activities in relation to the human rights instruments of the ENP, including drafting monitoring reports and statements, and in this regard establish a full time coordinator position to deal with the ENP. (see Annex 1 for a detailed description of activities in this field)
- Continue close cooperation with other Brussels based NGOs

7. Partnerships

Objectives

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

The **general objective** is to contribute to developing and supporting efficient networks of civil society groups rooted in human rights values that can impact positively on the situation in the EuroMed region.

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

Background

The EMHRN believes it is important to cooperate with civil society beyond the human rights community in the region, as well as with international NGOs, and in this way build partnerships and disseminate the values upon which it builds its work. In the past the EMHRN has actively cooperated with a number of partners and has proactively initiated or supported the establishment of new networks and entities such as the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), the EuroMed NGO Platform and the Danish NGO network under the Arab Initiative.

It has initiated cooperation with EMHRN members in Morocco and the Moroccan Consultative Council on Human Rights in order to provide technical assistance to the drafting of a National Human Rights and Democracy Plan.

The EMHRN has sought broad alliance with - and outreach to - international and other non governmental organisations, trade unions, environmental and development groups, as well as religious groups, inside and outside the region.

Activities

The EMHRN will:

- Continue to support and host the EMHRF
- Support the EuroMed NGO Platform to become an efficient clearing house for EuroMed civil society networks
- Continue support to the drafting of a National Human Rights Plan in Morocco
- Maintain and strengthen relations with international human rights organisations Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the FIDH, OMCT, etc.
- Continue developing partnerships with trade unions, private and political foundations, and religious based organisations
- Develop relations to other forums for dialogue on human rights values and standards, such as social forums and political platforms

8. Executive Bodies and memberships

Objectives

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

The **general objective** is to

- Implement the statutes and by-laws of the EMHRN in a transparent and democratic way, and ensure the participation of members in delivering the EMHRN's agenda
- Ensure gender-mainstreaming of the EMHRN
- Ensure that the EMHRN membership and strategy reflect one another

The **short term objective** is to

- Support and the work of EMHRN executive bodies
- Further develop internal communication practices to ensure transparency and ownership to decision making
- Develop a gender mainstreaming policy

Activities

- Hold a General Assembly of the EMHRN in 2008 with a main focus on recent trends that impact on human rights as well as how to respond to these
- Hold three annual Executive Committee meetings
- Hold three annual steering group meetings aimed at supervising the daily management of the secretariat and assisting the President in his/her role as a working President

- Hold an annual meeting of conveners, political referents and coordinators of EMHRN working groups
- Finalise and set up a gender audit of the EMHRN and develop a gender mainstreaming policy on that basis
- Update the statutes in order to match the development of the EMHRN
- Define a proactive approach to new memberships

9. Administration

Objectives

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

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

The **short term objective** is to set up the necessary structures to implement the work programme of the EMHRN and to strengthen its capacity to respond proactively to changing circumstances in the region

Background

The EMHRN aims to support its activities with a committed, efficient and professional administration which is sensitive to intercultural dialogue, to the members' needs and to the environment in which they work.

Activities

The EMHRN will work to

- Consolidate its organisational structure, developing its administrative and financial procedures and hire the necessary administrative staff to match the EMHRN's development and in transparent way
- Ensure long term and diversified funding for the EMHRN and develop a strategy in this regard
- Consolidate three EMHRN antennas in the South (Amman, Cairo and Rabat) as well as the office in Brussels
- Implement a staff development plan

Appendix 8 : Budget 2008-2010

BUDGET FOR 2008 - 2010 RELATED TO THE EMHRN WORK PROGRAMME

	2008 Budget		2009 Budget		2010 Budget		2008-2010 Budget	
3.1 Human Rights and Democratisation	669 745	34%	773 317	30%	803 700	29%	2 246 762	31%
3.1.1 Freedom of Associations	148 253	8%	177 092	7%	189 326	7%	514 670	7%
3.1.2 Justice	194 037	10%	200 559	8%	207 226	8%	601 821	8%
3.1.3 Women's rights, Gender equality and mainstreaming	124 023	6%	184 673	7%	189 738	7%	498 434	7%
3.1.4 Human Rights Education Addressing Young People	203 433	10%	210 994	8%	217 411	8%	631 837	9%
3.2 Human Rights and Human Security	370 250	19%	521 278	20%	557 189	20%	1 448 717	20%
3.2.1 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers	253 030	13%	282 551	11%	288 815	10%	824 395	11%
3.2.2 Human Rights in the Middle East Conflict	87 458	5%	200 944	8%	207 328	8%	495 730	7%
3.2.3 Economic and Social Rights	29 762	2%	37 783	1%	61 047	2%	128 592	2%
WORKING GROUPS TOTAL	1 039 996	54%	1 294 595	50%	1 360 889	49%	3 695 479	51%
4. Communications	112 356	6%	163 863	6%	169 049	6%	445 267	6%
NETWORKING TOTAL	1 152 351	59%	1 458 457	57%	1 529 938	55%	4 140 746	57%
5. Membership Support	102 669	5%	366 307	14%	476 327	17%	945 303	13%
5.1 Solidarity	26 084	1%	244 318	9%	321 883	12%	592 284	8%
5.2 Training / ENP	76 585	4%	121 989	5%	154 445	6%	353 019	5%
6. Advocacy and dialog	91 726	5%	115 919	4%	107 675	4%	315 320	4%
7. Partnership	40 900	2%	35 383	1%	36 219	1%	112 501	2%
8. Executive Bodies and Membership	356 916	18%	232 273	9%	222 859	8%	812 047	11%
9. Fundraising			99 943	4%	104 279	4%	204 221	3%
10. Staff Development	11 353	1%	20 000	1%	22 000	1%	53 353	1%
11. Administration	187 384	10%	248 580	10%	261 621	9%	697 585	10%
TOTAL BUDGET	1 943 300	100%	2 576 861	100%	2 760 916	100%	7 281 077	100%

Appendix 9: Final declaration

**8th General Assembly
of Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
Barcelona 12-14 Decembre 2008**

Final Statement

One year ago, the EMHRN celebrated its tenth anniversary. Created in response to the Barcelona Declaration, the EMHRN has achieved to gather more than 80 human rights organizations from the European Union and the countries members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, develop its action and reflection on several themes relevant to this region of the world, ensure, with others, the defense of threatened human rights organizations and defenders (notably through the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Human Rights) and, lastly, to establish its material existence though it remains a continuous bet on the future.

Despite those achievements, the situation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, as well as the development experienced by the North and South Mediterranean countries are far from fulfilling the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration and even less the aspirations of peoples.

If a limited number of countries has enjoyed real progress, the general situation has continued to deteriorate, notably because of the emergence of new conflicts and the persistence of the old ones.

Indeed, peace remains an absolute necessity to establish or further democracy and human rights. Though it will not be enough to ensure alone the establishment of democracy, the resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict remains one of its key elements.

While recalling that the use of force against any civil population is never acceptable, the continued Israeli occupation and the constant expansion of colonies, as well as the confinement of civilians in actual territorial ghettos, as symbolised by the wall constructed in violation of the Hague Court's judgement, the siege of Occupied Palestinian Territories, in particular of Gaza, the use of collective punishment, the eradication of any economic development in Palestine and the discrimination and racism against the Palestinian minority in Israel, constitute a massive violation of human rights and humanitarian law.

The expansion of the conflict to neighbouring states, with the massive and unjustifiable destructions inflicted to Lebanon, or when the US and its allies illegally entered into war in Iraq, producing hundreds of thousands of refugees in the Euro-Mediterranean basin, as well as the potential attack against the Iranian nuclear plants or the persistence of the Western Sahara conflict and the resulting massive human rights violations, demonstrate that, far from improving, the situation in that region of the world and of its immediate neighbourhood bears an amplified risk of conflicts with consequences that concern the whole world.

In each of these cases, one has to admit that the European Union did not know or did not play the role expected from it. Israeli governments continue to conduct their policies in total impunity, notably on the ground that the Palestinian people freely exercised its right to election, and certain Members States of the Union lined up with the US in Iraq. If the use of atomic energy for military purposes is not acceptable, then its condemnation applies to all the countries of the region, and thus also to the State of Israel.

In this context, one has to admit that democratic mechanisms and the respect for human rights have only made little progress. The Barcelona Declaration postulated a shared destiny based on shared values.

This did not entail copying any Western model but rather an appropriation by all State Members of the Partnership of the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the various conventions that were adopted for its implementation.

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

On the sixtiest anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we can only provide a critical report of the situation of the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In practically all the countries partners of the European Union, the electoral processes continue to enjoy only little credibility, when the situation has not deteriorated. Parliaments are, essentially, assemblies where actors with no actual powers and elected in questionable circumstances fidget.

Freedom of the press, with few exceptions, remains largely limited and journalists are too often subjected to unjustifiable repression. The functioning of the judiciary remains under the yoke of governments to the extent that even when more liberal provisions are adopted, those in charge of implementing them lack culture of independence. Not to mention that the training level of judiciary agents is insufficient and facilitates, along with other reasons, endemic corruption that extends to large sectors.

Whether it takes place under emergency laws, constantly renewed or worsened, or under ordinary laws, the use of torture and inhuman and degrading treatments are common practice not only for political opponents, but also for mere citizens who fall into the police's hand.

Despite the commitments made and certain exceptions, civil society organisations are victims of laws or practices that infringe their independence or simply prevent their existence. Although the Declaration on the protection of human rights defenders has existed for ten years, being a human rights activist or a trade unionist in numerous South Mediterranean countries amounts to be assured to suffer persecutions, or even to put his or her freedom or life at risk.

The economic choices that were made and the practically inexistent social legislation make the lives of millions of people, directly hit by a globalisation that only leads to ensuring the supremacy of the most powerful, even more precarious. Children are the first victims of these social disparities. Weak among the weak, migrants who arrive live in "rights-free" zones.

Altogether, the rule of law required by democracy and the respect of human rights has only slightly improved in a limited number of countries. The majority of them have shown, on the contrary, a real step back: there are no means or fora for political debate, to the extent that it has been replaced by religion, instrumentalised by the States and certain groups.

Finally, though legislations improving women's rights have been adopted in some countries, legal or de facto discrimination between genders is the rule, including within the most mobilised sectors of civil society. Women's rights are all the more threatened because of their economic situation that puts them in the front line in terms of unemployment, job insecurity and poverty.

The European Union, for its part, has developed, notably since the attacks of 11 September 2001, a securitarian policy that cares less and less about the principles it claims to rely on.

Concerned about protecting itself from any manifestation of terrorism and from what it considers to be intrusive immigration, it subjects its own citizens to emergency laws and to checks that violate elementary freedoms. Migrants are subjected to discriminatory measures, or are even literally hunted down. Refugees are considered as cheats and those who help them are prosecuted.

This results in an actual deterioration of the situation of migrants in the entire European Union, accompanied by the rise of xenophobic reactions, including among the ruling circles, to the extent of provoking racist manifestations towards individuals who have a European nationality but are originally from South Mediterranean countries, in particular towards those who claim to follow Islam or those assimilated to Islam.

State Members of the European Union, either collectively or bilaterally, export their skills and condition their aid to the respect of the securitarian norms they impose. This results in a legitimisation of the partners who openly flout freedoms and explains the support granted to the worst dictatorships.

Institutionally, multilateral negotiations of the Barcelona Declaration have progressively been replaced by bilateral agreements under the form of association agreements and then, under the framework of the European

Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

Neighbourhood Policy. These agreements did not make, or so little, for a real democratic evolution and a better respect of human rights.

The establishment of an « Union for the Mediterranean », at the initiative of the French government, might have led to believe that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership would be given a boost. The restriction of this initiative to the fields of economy and security only leaves out the peoples' rights, the aspiration to democracy and the respect of human rights. Without underestimating the good that infrastructure projects linking both shores of the Mediterranean could bring, this initiative will only prosper if both parties make profit of it and if peoples are included in it: and, at the end of the day, no genuine economic development can be achieved without democracy, peace and respect for human rights.

If this report appears to be mainly negative, the Member States of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, who are historically linked together since centuries and share a sea that unites them, have no other choice than to build a common space.

The EMHRN continues to think that there is no other solution, in that region of the world, than a genuine partnership based on the equality of its members, but also on common principles, resulting from the international conventions they each have acceded to.

In this framework, the EMHRN decides to continue its efforts towards the establishment of democratic regimes respectful of human rights.

To that end, it decides to extend its intervention capacities to all international bodies that deal with this region of the world.

It will support any initiative likely to strengthen the defense of human rights activists, and in particular, the North African coordination of human rights organisations and the EuroMed Federation against enforced disappearances.

In particular, the EMHRN calls for:

- Free and fair elections under the supervision of independent observers.
- The respect of freedom of the press and more generally of freedom of expression and creation. These should not be subjected to any restriction, notably in the name of religion, other than those necessary for the existence of a democratic society.
- The respect of freedom of association, including for workers, and the independence of these organisations.
- The setting-up of judiciary bodies independent from the political power and subjected to the public control of citizens, which implies the renunciation of the currently in force emergency legislations.
- The respect of the rights of migrants and refugees, notably by the ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the rights of migrants and the Geneva Convention by all the States of the Partnership.
- A determined action in favour of human rights education which will enable to concretely apply the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of religion, political opinions, gender or sexual orientation. Reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be withdrawn and the Convention should be efficiently applied.

More generally, the EMHRN wants to see:

- The international community enforces the resolution it has adopted with regard to the Israeli-Arab conflict, including those concerning refugees. The European Union, in particular, should cease to support the policy of Israeli governments and make amends by funding the Palestinian Authority. It should respect the democratic choices of the Palestinian people and its legitimate representatives. It should oppose racism and discriminations endured by the Palestinian minority in Israel. Arab States that receive Palestinian refugees should recognise them the rights they are granted under the Geneva conventions.

- Action favouring the equality between men and women be a priority. Not only would it restore the rights to half of the populations concerned but also, the EMHRN is convinced that it would act as a powerful leverage for the evolution of all societies and a condition for the existence of democracy and respect for human rights. All reservations to CEDAW should be withdrawn and the Istanbul Plan of Action should be implemented.
- The political and civic debate regain its rights and be no more sacrificed by purely securitarian concerns. It should be open to all different components of the society that permanently accept the rules of democracy and the refusal of violence, including religious actors.
- That economic development is not achieved to the benefit of some individuals or companies and that social rights are fully applied. .
- Migrants and refugees enjoy their rights continually and cease to be the object and tool of securitarian and xenophobic policies.
- The European Union, in accordance with the respect for human rights it claims in all its activities and in its external relationships, adopt a more proactive and consistent approach in support of democratic reforms and progress of the human rights situations in all the countries concerned by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Far from weakening the political and economic stability of the concerned countries and the security of individuals, this approach would, on the contrary, strengthen them.

The EMHRN, which gathers organisations from all the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, reaffirms that the actual application of these reforms and the realisation of these objectives are the conditions for a genuine dialogue between peoples and for a shared common destiny. L

Appendix 10: Emergency resolution on Tunisia

URGENT RESOLUTION ON THE SENTENCES PRONOUNCED FOLLOWING THE EVENTS AT THE MINE BASIN OF GAFSA

The General Assembly of the EMHRN, gathered in Barcelona on 12, 13 and 14 December, was outraged to learn about the judgment delivered on 11 December 2008, following the events at the mine basin of Gafsa in Tunisia, and the conditions surrounding the trial.

The first pleadings of the defense on the irregularities of the procedure and prosecution were suddenly terminated as the tribunal, announcing that it was retiring to deliberate, evacuated the room and closed the hearing. On the same day, the tribunal delivered its judgment and condemned 29 individuals to sentences going from 2 year suspended prison terms to 10 year prison terms, without hearing the accused or the pleadings on the merits of the defense lawyers.

In addition to that, new arrests were conducted in the middle of the night.

The General Assembly of the EMHRN denounces the flagrant and outrageous violation of the fundamental principles of the right to a fair trial.

This mockery of justice illustrates once again the absence of independence of the Tunisian judiciary and its instrumentalisation by the regime.

By repressing trade-unionists, targeting demonstrators who call for the right to work or those in France who merely contributed to the organization of solidarity and handing them to a mockery of justice, the Tunisian authorities show their fear in view of the more and more volatile social situation.

The European Union cannot continue to support the Tunisian regime and the French presidency of the European Union, the Commission and the Parliament must demand the Tunisian government to respect its human rights commitments, instead of calling for a reinforced partnership between the European Union and Tunisia, as decided at the Council of ministers on 8 and 9 December 2008.

The EMHRN assures all condemned activists of its support. It calls on the North and South Mediterranean civil societies to mobilize for the freedom of all the prosecuted and to put an end to those repressive measures.

Appendix 11: Emergency resolution on the EU European Council

URGENT RESOLUTION ON TUNISIA

Emergency resolution on the EU European Council

The General Assembly of the EMHRN, gathered in Barcelona on 12/13 and 14 December 2008, takes note of the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 8/9 December 2008.

It observes that, with varying degrees, the European Union has entered into reinforced partnerships or association agreements with Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Jordan and Morocco. The EMHRN regrets that the development of bilateral relations with those countries in the fields of economy and security is not accompanied by equally strong requirements with regard to human rights.

Strengthening the political relationship, as well as other relationships, with the State of Israel, with no other requirement than a vague reference to human rights and humanitarian law, constitutes a breach of the core principles of the Neighbourhood Policy.

This approach will have no impact on Israeli policy on the ground. On the contrary, it will reinforce the impunity that authorities of this country have enjoyed for decades.

While the situation keeps deteriorating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and in particular in the Gaza strip, the Council's decision contradicts the commitment of the European Union to work towards peace in accordance with all relevant international resolutions.

More generally, the EMHRN recalls that to achieve the creation of an area of peace, stability and prosperity, any reinforcement of the relationship between the European Union and its partners should be conditioned to precise and concrete commitments concerning the improvement of the human rights situation.

Appendix 12: List of participants - Barcelona December 12-14 2008

First name	Surname	Organisation	
EC MEMBERS // MEMBRES DU CE			
Moataz	El fegiery	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Egypt
Michel	Tubiana	Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH)	France
Kamel	Jendoubi	Comite pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droit des l'Homme en Tunisie (CRLDHT)	France/Tunisia
Colm	Regan	80.20 Education and Acting for a Better World	Ireland
Wadih	Al-Asmar	Mouvement franco-libanais SOLIDA	Lebanon
Rabia	Naciri	Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)	Morocco
Eva	Norström	Swedish Refugee Aid (SWERA)	Sweden
REGULAR NATIONAL MEMBERS // MEMBRES REGULIERS NATIONAUX			
Mohammed	Rahali	Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme (LADH)	Algeria
Stefan August	Lütgenau	Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Human Rights	Austria
Christina	Kaili	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies	Cyprus
Hayat	Hussein Yasamsal	Rights and Freedom Association	Cyprus

First name	Surname	Organisation	
Lone	Lindholt	Danish Institute for Human Rights	Denmark
Lamia-Louise	Chehabi Madsen	Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT)	Denmark
Anitta	Kynsilehto	TAPRI Mediterranean Studies Project	Finland
Nassera	Dutour	Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie	France/Algeria
Tarek	Ben Hiba	Comite pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droit des l'Homme en Tunisie (CRLDHT) Delegate	France/Tunisia
Mouhieddine	Cherbib	Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des Deux Rives (FTCR)	France/Tunisia
Mari	Lavrentiadou	Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EEDDA)	Greece
Aliki	Karadimitriou	Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EEDDA) Delegate	Greece
Bertrand	Borg	80.20 Education and Acting for a Better World	Ireland
Sawsan	Zaher	ADALAH, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel	Israel
Mohammed	Zeidan	Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA)	Israel
Ishai	Menuchin	The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel	Israel
Maria	De Donato	Italian Refugee Council (CIR)	Italy
Walid	Al Nakib	Beirut Bar Association	Lebanon
Berangere	Pineau	Mouvement franco-libanais SOLIDA	Lebanon
Rola	Badran	Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon (PHRO)	Lebanon
Ghassan	Abdallah	Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon (PHRO) Delegate	Lebanon
Delphine	Compain	René Moawad Foundation	Lebanon
Omar	Grech	Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies	Malta
Nabia	Haddouche	Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)	Morocco
Larbi	Maaninou	Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH)	Morocco
Amine	Abdelhamid	Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH) Delegate	Morocco
Khadija	Sadouk	Espace Associatif	Morocco
Mohamed	Nesh Nash	Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (OMDH)	Morocco
Issam	Younis	Al Mezan Center for Human Rights	Palestine
Wesam	Ahmad	Al-Haq	Palestine
Raji	Sourani	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) - Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH)	Palestine
Magaly	Thill	ACSUR Las Segovias, Association for Co-operation with the South	Spain
Emilio	Gines Santidrian	Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos	Spain
Birgitta	Danielson	Kvinna till Kvinna	Sweden
Sliman	Bouchuiguir	Libyan League for Human Rights	Switzerland/Lybia
Danial	Saoud	Comittes for the Defense of Democracy Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (CDF)	Syria
Radwan	Ziadeh	Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies	Syria
Mokhtar	Trifi	Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH)	Tunesia

First name	Surname	Organisation	
Khadija	Cherif	Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD)	Tunisia
Abdeljelil	Bédoui	Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie (CNLT)	Tunisia
Mustafa Emrah	Şeyhanlıoğlu	Human Rights Association	Turkey
Khaldoon	Alaswad	Damascus Center for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies Delegate	USA/Syria

REGULAR REGIONAL MEMBERS // MEMBRES REGULIERS REGIONAUX

Barbara	Harrell-Bond	African and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA)	UK
Alya	Cherif Chamhari	Collectif 95 - Maghreb Egalité	Algeria
Mohamed Salah	Kherigi	Institut Arabe des Droits de l'Homme	Tunisia

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS // MEMBRES ASSOCIES

Ali	Diwan	Iraqi Human Rights Society	Denmark/Iraq
David	Zammit	University of Malta	Malta
Anne-Laurence	Lacroix	World Organization against Torture (OMCT)	Switzerland
Eric	Goldstein	Human Rights Watch (USA)	USA

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS // MEMBRES INDIVIDUELS

Madjid	Benchikh	Professor	France/Algeria
Anna	Bozzo-Curti	Professor	Italy
Jon	Rud	Lawyer	Spain/Norway
Khemaïs	Chammari	Expert Consultant	Tunisia

GUESTS & OBSERVERS // INVITES & OBSERVATEURS

Abderrahmane Amine	Sidhoum	Lawyer	Algeria
Kamel	Daoud	Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH)	Algeria
Pierre	Barge	Association Européenne pour la défense des Droits de l'Homme (AEDH)	Belgium
Sébastien	Lorion	European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, EU Commission	Belgium
Doros	Polykarpou	Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism (KISA)	Cyprus
Anne-Catherine	Legendre	Consultant COWI A/S	Denmark
Angela	Gaff	Consultant COWI A/S	Denmark
Francois	Jobard	France 3	France
Laurent	Beaumel	France 3	France
Randa	Siniora	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights	France
Eoin	Cleary	Human Right Education Project	Ireland

First name	Surname	Organisation	
Stephen	Brandon	Human Right Education Project	Ireland
Clifton	Rooney	Human Right Education Project	Ireland
Eoin	Cleary	Human Right Education Project	Ireland
Kelvin	Doyle	Human Right Education Project	Ireland
Haneen	Naamneih	Human Right Education Project	Israel
Abdelmaksoud	Rachdi	EuroMed NGO Platform	Palestine
Sr.	Hamid	AFSD	Spain
Ignati	Calbo	Agencia Catalunya de cooperacion	Spain
Rachid	Aarab	Alliance for Freedom and Dignity	Spain
Eirene	Ramos	ANUE	Spain
Xavier	Guerrero	Asociación para las Naciones Unidas en España - ANUE	Spain
Manel	Vila	Barcelona City Council	Spain
Sebastia	Mayol	Barcelona City Council	Spain
Andreu	Felip	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Anna	Grabowska	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Carla	Canal	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
David	Minoves	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Jordi	Llaonart	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Miquel Angel	Prieto	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Xavier	Martí	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation	Spain
Anna	Serradesanferm	Compromesos amb el mon	Spain
Anna	Serradeferm Fàbregas	Compromesos amb el món	Spain
Tat	Magdaleno Jofresa	Compromesos amb el món	Spain
Josep	Vendrell	Departament d'Interior, Relacions Institucionals i Participació	Spain
Alex	Masllorens	Department of Justice of the General/Departament de Justícia de la Generalitat	Spain
Anna	Terron	Department of Presidency/Departament de Presidència	Spain
Roser	Clavell	Department of Vicepresidence/Departament de Vicepresidència	Spain
Francesc	Sol de la vega	Elcalam	Spain
Eva	Feliu	Elcalam	Spain
Laia	Carbonell	Elcalam	Spain
Laura	Feliu	Elcalam	Spain
Maria	Prandi	Escola de Cultura de Pau	Spain
Maria	Cañadas	Escola de Cultura de Pau	Spain
Roger	Revilla	Federació Catalana d-ONG pels Drets Humans	Spain
Georgina	Casas	Federació Catalana d'ONG pels Drets Humans - FCONGDH	Spain
Eduard	Soler	Fundació CIDOB	Spain
Helena	Oliván	Generalitat de Catalunya	Spain
Josep	Robles	IEMed	Spain
Senen	Florensa	IEMed	Spain
Aida	Guillen	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya-IDHC	Spain
Marina	Arakeylan	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya-IDHC	Spain
Alex	Morian	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya-IDHC	Spain

First name	Surname	Organisation	
Agueda	Mera	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya-IDHC	Spain
Fadi	Hadeeb	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya-IDHC	Spain
Elisa	Miralles	Juristes sense Fronteres	Spain
Gala	Montseny	Juristes sense Fronteres	Spain
Carme	Ferrer	Lliga dels Drets dels Pobles	Spain
Rita	Huybens	Lliga dels Drets dels Pobles	Spain
José	Riera	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation/Ministeri d'Assumptes Exteriors i Cooperació	Spain
Silvia	Escobar	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Cooperation/Ministeri d'Assumptes Exteriors i Cooperació	Spain
Eulàlia	Mesalles	Office for The Promotion of Peace and Human Rights	Spain
Xavier	Badia	Office for The Promotion of Peace and Human Rights	Spain
Gerardo	Fueyo	Oficina de Derechos Humanos/ MAEC	Spain
Pau	Solanilla	Secreteriat for the European Union/Secretaría para la Unión Europea	Spain
Rafel	Ribó	Syndicate of Greuges/Sindicatura de Greuges	Spain
Marga	Serra	UNESCOCAT	Spain
Carme	Coll	Union Nations Program for Development - Barcelona Office	Spain
Nuria	Garcia	Universitat Internacional de la Pau	Spain
Susie	Alegre	Senior Consultant	UK

FOUNDATION // FONDATION

Eskil	Trolle	EMHRF, Lawyer	Denmark
Bahey	El Din Hassan	Board Member of the Foundation	Egypt
Khammar	El Yazami	Board Member of the Foundation	France
Lynn	Welchman	Board Member of the Foundation	UK
Hanny	Megally	EMHRF/International Center for Transnational Justice	USA/Egypt

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Justine	Wicikowski	Assistant	Denmark
Marc	Degli	Communication Officer	Denmark
Thibaut	Guillet	Coordinator Freedom of Association	Denmark
Nour	Hemici	Coordinator Human Right Education	Denmark
Fabrice	Liebaut	Coordinator Justice	Denmark
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Marc	Schade- Poulsen	Executive Director	Denmark
Laureline	Rossigneux	Executive Secretary	Denmark
Poul	Collemorten	Head of Administration	Denmark
Marit Flø	Jørgensen	Program Director	Denmark
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Report of the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN - Barcelona - December 11-14 2009

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