



EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2020

June 2021

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EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2020



EuroMed Rights
EuroMed Droits
الأورو-متوسطية للحقوق

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FOREWORD

TESTED POSITIVE DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

The year 2020 and the first half of 2021 have been – in many aspects – extraordinary. They have revealed the capacity of societies to act in solidarity and be resilient, as well as the temptation by many governments to restrain liberties, oppose democracy reforms and target human rights defenders under the excuse of a worldwide pandemic.

If restrictions may be legitimate to protect public health, many governments in the Euro-Mediterranean region have abusively repressed their critics launching smear campaigns, reducing fundamental rights and freedoms, and jailing opponents under appalling sanitary conditions. Against this gloomy background, the EU and its member states would be well advised to stand up against authoritarian regimes and increase their support to those, in civil society and politics, who speak in favour of human rights and democracy. Indeed, tunes from across the Atlantic provide reason to hope that pro-democracy and human rights defenders in the Euro-Mediterranean region may stand less isolated in international politics in the time to come than they did in the past four years of the Trump administration.

Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, EuroMed Rights was able to transform and continue its work by relying on online activities. The online transformation has yielded multiple interesting results from across the network. For example, our regional thematic programme teams increased our daily monitoring of human rights transgressions across the Euro-Mediterranean region and shared the worrying trends we observed with decision-makers and the broader public in multiple webinars and online advocacy meetings. Further, we boosted our political communication with monthly updates and suggestions about the human rights developments in the region, shared directly with thousands of state officials and civil society organisations.

The silver lining that stands out from the painful year of the pandemic is that we managed to reach a broader and more diversified group of actors across the region. EuroMed Rights members showed both willingness and agility to shift their focus,

formats and working methods. In Tunisia and Morocco, for instance, we have over the past year mobilised both the traditional civil society actors that we previously worked with and representatives of public institutions and professional associations, to collaborate and co-create solutions to urgent human rights and governance issues. Further, our programmes dealing with countries facing deeper institutional crises managed - in many instances - to interact with parliamentarians and EU member states at high level. Cases in point were, for instance, our programmes on Algeria, Egypt, and Israel/Palestine. Finally, we kept progressing on our work on Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan - notably relating to the fate of refugees from Syria.

As President and Executive Director, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to all our members, partners and donors for their invaluable flexibility and contribution to the network's activities and results. This annual report provides a glimpse of the hard work undertaken by our staff and members, and of the main outcomes achieved during 2020. Our thoughts also go to our colleagues, friends and supporters who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. We cross our fingers that we can soon leave it behind.

Finally we would like to express our excitement to meet our members and partners at EuroMed Rights upcoming General Assembly in October 2021.



Wadiah Al-Asmar
President



Rasmus Alenius Boserup
Executive Director



About EuroMed Rights

A network bridging two shores

EuroMed Rights is a regional non-governmental organisation representing 65 human rights organisations active in 30 countries and aiming to promote human rights and democracy for all on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. It was founded in 1997, following the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, by civil society organisations dedicated to promoting a human rights-based Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In its 2018-2021 strategy, EuroMed Rights pursued its work in four key thematic areas (Migration and Asylum, Economic and Social Rights, Shrinking Space for Civil Society, Women's Rights and Gender Justice) alongside its regular monitoring of the human rights situation in Algeria, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Morocco/Western Sahara, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

How we work

EuroMed Rights' mission is to develop and strengthen partnerships, on an equal footing, between civil society organisations at regional and national levels. By creating network opportunities and encouraging such civil society cooperation, EuroMed Rights aims to help them develop joint strategies, convey their shared views and visions to decision-makers and to the broader public, and ultimately increase their influence at home and abroad.

EuroMed Rights implements this mission by combining the five working methods, as follows:

Networking: EuroMed Rights promotes and defends human rights and democracy by initiating and facilitating the development, with its members and partners, of shared political priorities and strategies. These networking efforts mainly take the form of working groups and solidarity groups created in response to current political challenges and opportunities. These groups also serve as platforms to build capacity, trust and solidarity among the network's members and partners to further strengthen cooperation and coordination.

Advocating: EuroMed Rights influences policy makers and authorities at national, regional and international levels to adopt and incorporate pro-human rights and pro-democracy policies, including the recommendations developed in the working groups and solidarity groups.

Communicating: EuroMed Rights mobilises support for human rights and democracy by disseminating its recommendations and positions to a wide range of audiences, including the general public through both traditional media work and social media. It also develops a range of written and audiovisual communication tools, e.g. newsletter, videos and podcasts.

Mainstreaming: EuroMed Rights promotes gender equality by systematically mainstreaming gender policies internally in its organisational policies and structures, and externally in its work to promote and defend human rights and democracy. EuroMed Rights also fights back against the repression and persecution of civil society by addressing the challenges related to shrinking space for civil society in all its programmes and activities.

Monitoring and evaluating: EuroMed Rights systematically monitors, documents and learns from its work. It uses these results to drive performance and impact, and to ensure accountability towards its members, partners, donors and the broader public. Monitoring and evaluation also helps foster internal learning and organisational development.

What did EuroMed Rights achieve in 2020?

MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Standing up for migrants' and refugees' rights

EuroMed Rights' Migration and Asylum Programme aims to promote free, safe, and fair mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region, towards the implementation of policies and practices respectful of the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees.

The programme's work in 2020 focused on producing in-depth and factual analyses on the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum which sets the EU's and Member States' future framework on this matter. EuroMed Rights raised concerns over the human rights violations that this Pact would entail across the region. In September and October 2020, prominent media outlets, such as Aljazeera and Euronews,

interviewed EuroMed Rights as a leading and credible organisation in the migration field. Later, other European and national media outlets portrayed EuroMed Rights' positions and work.

"United we stand, divided we fall" remains the Migration and Asylum Working Group's core message. EuroMed Rights and its members spoke with one voice at the level of the EU, its member states and countries of origin to ensure that the Pact protects migrants' and refugees' rights. As the Pact lacked an impact assessment by the European Commission, EuroMed Rights produced a simulation report on the impact of the Pact on Italy, as first-arrival country. This report was sent to the Italian Minister of Interior by our Italian member, ARCI. Later, the Italian government addressed a "non-paper" to the European Commission and the other EU member

states raising concerns, among others, on the lack of solidarity mechanism in the EU Pact on Migration.

In light of the worrying increase in migrants' deaths and arrivals on the Atlantic route, EuroMed Rights organised a field mission to the Canary Islands. Three Members of the European Parliament were also investigating the situation and EuroMed Rights was able to team up and provide information during the visit. A photo reportage portraying the situation as a sort of "laboratory" of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was then produced. Thanks to this fieldwork, various local, national and regional media outlets interviewed EuroMed Rights on the situation of migrants and refugees over there.

The creation of a dedicated webpage ("On the Move") - updated bimonthly - helps us track the latest developments in field of migration and asylum across the Mediterranean. The page has become an essential source of information for officials, member and partner organisations interested in the topic.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

A flexible approach reaps significant policy changes

Can one use the COVID-19-related limitations to reorganise ways of working? In 2020, EuroMed Rights' Women Rights and Gender Justice programme did just that and achieved significant policy changes. Instead of holding its regular Working Group meetings, the programme set up four smaller taskforces. This new, more agile, format increased member inclusion, helped focus our work and gave a new dynamic to the Working Group members.

A key result came in November 2020 when recommendations issued by one of these taskforces were included into the third EU Gender Action Plan. This document, known as GAP III, sets out a policy framework and priorities on gender equality for the EU to follow in its external affairs from 2021-2025.



Members of EuroMed Rights' taskforce had analysed GAP II and drew on members' experiences of its implementation, its impact and shortcomings. Among the recommendations they proposed, the EU included the following in its GAP III: political support to civil society, in particular in contexts of shrinking space; an intersectional approach to the GAP III; strategic political support for CSOs; promotion of women's economic and social rights; creation of spaces for dialogue with women's

rights organisations; and the improvement of transparency and communication on the GAP III.

The work of the taskforce increased members' knowledge of the importance of the GAP III, enhanced their skills and confidence, and helped them build partnerships with EU field delegations to advocate for gender equality in Brussels but also domestically.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Building up coalitions for change

Since the official launch of its Economic and Social Rights (ESR) Working Group in 2019, EuroMed Rights has gathered 30 members and key associations to work on four issues, namely: 1) the role and responsibilities of the state in implementing economic and social rights, 2) new social movements, 3) the impact of macro-economic and fiscal policies, as well as 4) EU trade policies on economic and social rights.

Despite the pandemic, the ESR Working Group quickly paced up by coordinating a written response to the EU's consultation of the EuroMed Association Agreements that will lay the foundation for future trade agreements between the EU and MENA countries.

Collaboration on economic and social rights also led to increased partnerships. For instance, Working Group members worked with Danish NGOs on a joint shadow report informing Denmark's 2021 Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. Collaboration also took place with Oxfam International, Belgian NGO CNCD 11.11.11 and the Center for Economic and Social Rights under the shape of joint webinars and trainings.

Several of these webinars and trainings were attended by leading economic and social rights experts as well as EU and member state officials, attesting the importance of this programme within the work done by EuroMed Rights.



Dialogue avenues kept open across the Mediterranean



EuroMed Rights has, since 2018, led a project called 'Majalat', a word that stands for "spaces, opportunities, fields and domains" in Arabic. In a context of multiple political, social, economic and environmental challenges in the region, including attacks against independent civil society organisations (CSOs), this initiative managed by a consortium of six civil society networks aims at creating safe spaces for a constructive dialogue between the EU and CSOs, trade unions, social movements and academics from both shores of the Mediterranean, with a view to influencing the vision and policies related to the region.

By the end of 2020, more than 500 civil society organisations had registered on the Majalat online platform for exchange on the EU-Neighbourhood South structured dialogue. The high number of CSOs registering on the platform was an increase of more than 400% in less than half a year (in August 2020, the number was 120), showing how this platform became increasingly relevant when physical meetings were impossible.

Another result of the Majalat project was when more than 50 EU representatives participated and exchanged with civil society representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia between July and September during three thematic online workshops on migration, security, and governance organised by EuroMed Rights and one on climate change supported by the network. Thanks to Majalat support, despite the challenges due to the COVID-19, EU and CSO representatives as well as thematic experts were able to pursue their dialogue during 18 additional webinars and the November Southern Neighbourhood Policy Seminar, integrating the impact of the pandemic in the policy work. Additionally, national workshops were held by field organisations thanks to small grants provided the project.

COVID-19 paves the way for new partnerships

The Open Government Morocco Initiative, the High Authority for Audio-visual Communication, the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Council of Europe, Nordic embassies, two Spanish writers, and several important media... These are but examples of the actors that have reached out to EuroMed Rights in 2020 to draw on the monitoring and knowledge of the network and its members and partners in Morocco.

This shows how EuroMed Rights is increasingly seen as a credible actor and partner in Morocco. Requests for inputs, cooperation or participation came from CSOs, academia, Moroccan government institutions, EU and UN agencies. For instance, the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights of Morocco contacted EuroMed Rights to gather more details following a press release deploring the situation of Moroccan citizens stranded in Ceuta & Melilla (Spanish enclaves) and calling for their safe return. Another example is the invitation received from the EU delegation to take part in a consultation as part of an online monitoring mission of the EU support programme for justice reform in Morocco.

With events being cancelled, the COVID-19 pandemic did allow more time to focus on the strengthening of these new relations. The regular monitoring of the situation of human rights in Morocco also helped the development of closer relations with media. While these results have not yet contributed directly to policy change, they did increase EuroMed Rights' visibility in Morocco and, in turn, participated in raising the network's future scope of influence in the country.

ALGERIA

NGO cooperation pays off: human rights in the spotlight

In 2020, EuroMed Rights continued to work on enhancing coordination and cooperation between Algerian member and partner organisations, leading to joint solidarity actions to promote and protect human rights in the country, including women's rights.

Between June and December 2020, EuroMed Rights took the lead in organising a research process and a series of well-attended webinars on the reform process in Algeria, in close coordination with its members, its partners in a human rights consortium, and external academic researchers. These webinars gave a solid insight about the state of affairs in a country where civil society has been facing systematic exclusion and isolation for decades and helped all stakeholders in designing their respective interventions in Algeria.

Another key result was the adoption by the European Parliament (EP) in November 2020 of an urgency resolution highlighting "the deteriorating human rights situation in Algeria - in particular the case of journalist Khaled Drareni." The resolution tabled by six out of the seven EP political groups - reflecting a broad agreement across the political spectrum - called for supporting civil society groups, human rights defenders, journalists and protesters, and for ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in Algeria. EuroMed Rights was part of a coalition of seven NGOs that advocated five different political groups in the European Parliament to table and adopt the resolution.

In May 2020, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, several international media outlets from Europe and the Middle East (including Le Monde, AFP, TV5 Monde, France 24, The Daily Mail, Al-Araby, Alquds Al-araby, Swissinfo, among others) covered EuroMed Rights press release urging the Algerian authorities to release journalists and end the blocking of news sites in the country.

TUNISIA

"Co-creation" to influence decision-makers and promote reforms

All along 2020, EuroMed Rights continued playing a key facilitating role between actors with different interests and perceptions, leading to "co-create" positions outside the usual circle of like-minded civil society organisations.

This original approach of "co-creation", as labelled by an external evaluation conducted in early 2021, was evidenced in the autumn of 2020, when the Tunisian Ministry of Justice and the Association of Magistrates decided to jointly define the scope of independence of the Tunisian courts. This came from a background, beginning in 2019, where EuroMed Rights, in partnership with the association of Tunisian magistrates, had set up working groups on justice reform to draft four draft laws aimed at increasing the independence of the judiciary. The working groups are made up of administrative, judicial and financial judges and academics.



In its work to support the League of Independent National Instances (LINI), EuroMed Rights focused on strengthening their capacities, helping them address common challenges they encounter in the implementation of their mandates. In 2020, these challenges included, among others, setting up final structures and modes of cooperation. As an example, the presidents of eight public instances engaged in the League decided in June 2020 to open the meetings of their respective executive committees to each other, to ensure sound synergies and exchange. They also discussed their constitutional role and supported the president of the anti-corruption instance following his dismissal - by triggering a debate at the Tunisian Parliament, which led to discussion among the instances, the public and the government.

Other examples of this “co-creation” include the commitment made in February 2020 by six institutions to be part of a new national group created and facilitated by EuroMed Rights. A group whose objective is to influence Tunisia’s foreign policy, in particular its relations with the EU. In October, it was the turn of the Tunisian parliamentary blocs’ representatives to agree on participating in the meetings of EuroMed Rights Tripartite Dialogue’s working groups aimed at fostering the dialogue between civil society, the Tunisian government and the EU.

Another change influenced by EuroMed Rights was when, on 22 April 2020, the Council of Europe invited the Tunisian Government to accede to the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women. So far only two countries outside Europe have been invited to join the Convention. This invitation is an important international recognition of Tunisia’s efforts in this regard, i.e. the national law to combat violence against women approved in 2017. This law is of very high standard, to a large extent due to the advocacy work of a coalition of Tunisian women’s right organisations.

EuroMed Rights mobilised and facilitated the coalition and trained its members on how to use the Istanbul Convention as a standard setting tool in their advocacy both through its regional and national gender working groups. As a follow-up, EuroMed Rights and partners will, in 2021, organise five training workshops for civil society in different parts of Tunisia on the Convention, and advocate for the adoption of the bill for the ratification of the Convention with legislative decision-makers.

EGYPT

International calls for the release of jailed rights defenders

Despite the cancellation of physical advocacy missions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EuroMed Rights continued its work focusing on human rights advocacy and on providing networking opportunities for Egyptian human rights defenders who face a relentless government crackdown.

In January 2020, before lockdowns set in, EuroMed Rights organised an advocacy mission to Spain to meet with officials and hold a public event jointly with Amnesty International, an Egyptian human rights defender, and a Spanish member of the European Parliament. This mission paved the way for continued joint online advocacy efforts. In September 2020, a member of the Spanish parliament committed to sending a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the case of jailed human rights defender Patrick Zaky, a researcher on LGBTQI rights with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).



In September 2020, EuroMed Rights was part of a coalition of 13 NGOs that coordinated and advocated for a letter by 278 US and EU lawmakers addressed to the Egyptian President urging him to immediately release human rights defenders, lawyers, political activists, and other prisoners of conscience unjustly detained. EuroMed Rights took the lead in contacting Members of Parliament in Spain to encourage them to co-sign the letter.

Two leading Spanish political parties officially published the letter on social media after members of EuroMed Rights organised an online meeting with relevant experts in October. EuroMed Rights also coordinated a joint press release, signed by eight NGOs, giving visibility to the letter and published a video explaining the initiative.

PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

False accusations debunked, accountability on the way

EuroMed Rights influenced many important decision-makers in 2020, even without being able to organise advocacy missions in Europe and visits in the field.

In a context of increasing smear campaigns against Palestinian NGOs, EuroMed Rights accompanied its member Al Mezan Center for Human Rights to debunk false accusations that NGO Monitor (a pro-occupation Israeli lobby) had raised against it. On 8 October 2020, two Dutch Ministers answered a parliamentary question defending Al Mezan from smearing, underlining that the NGO Monitor's report linking Al Mezan with terrorism and claiming that the Netherlands, as a funder of Al Mezan, is aiding terrorism, was baseless. It is one of the few times that an EU country publicly debunks NGO Monitor's smear tactics against Palestinian NGOs, so deeply and in detail.

Accountability is another key component of EuroMed Rights' work on Israel/Palestine. On 10 July 2020, eleven EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs sent a private letter to the EU High Representative Josep Borrell asking the EU to assess the legal and political implications of annexation of West Bank territories for the EU-Israel relations.

It was the first time that a concerted group of high-level politicians put the focus on the consequences of annexation. In May 2020, EuroMed Rights had initiated and coordinated a joint NGO private letter addressed to EU High Representative, Commission President and the 27 EU member states. The Ministers' letter echoed the NGO demands and even followed a similar wording in its message.

On 12 February 2020, the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) finally released a database on business activities related to illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, bringing transparency on activities that contravene international humanitarian and human rights law. In multiple occasions during the previous four years, EuroMed Rights and the NGO community at large had called the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate. By advocating towards the EU and its member states, EuroMed Rights put pressure on the OHCHR to publish the database. This shows the need to be relentless in advocacy, which can eventually lead to major steps forward.

TURKEY

Making space for civil society at home and abroad

EuroMed Rights finalised its two-year project "Protecting HRDs and Fair Trial Principles in Turkey" in January 2020 with a workshop gathering 46 civil society organisations. Given the repressive environment for civil society in Turkey, the high number of participants confirms EuroMed Rights' capacity to connect members to exchange in a safe space. The participants recognised the importance for an international network to bring their demands at EU and UN level and to coordinate activities on trial monitoring. These results led to the approval, by the EU, of a second phase of the project which started in January 2021.



During 2020, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme focused on monitoring and documentation activity as well as advocacy work. As such, EuroMed Rights monitored the constraints to the civic space in Turkey, following several cases of at-risk human rights defenders and analysing the restrictive legislation adopted in 2020 (including the freedom of association and online freedom of expression laws). This role, which required coordination efforts among civil society organisations as well as

public communication work, yielded some important results. A statement co-signed by 15 national and international NGOs was disseminated ahead of the first hearing of the second politically motivated trial against Osman Kavala, a philanthropist and human rights defender jailed since October 2017.

EuroMed Rights also denounced the geopolitical game played by Turkey's executive branch, notably regarding rapprochement with Algeria (e.g. association agreement between the two countries) and tensions increased with France. In both cases, EuroMed Rights featured prominently in the media.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Integration on the way

EuroMed Rights has for long worked to systematically mainstream gender perspectives into its work. Following the latest triennial gender audit that took place in 2018 and informed the specific strategy adopted in 2020, a gender perspective has been introduced into all country and thematic programmes, with the Economic and Social Rights programme serving as pilot for 2020. Gender focal points have also been established within nearly all EuroMed Rights programmes with members collaborating specifically, within their programme interest, on ensuring gender-related issues are taken into consideration.

In their communication activities, programmes have also echoed gender thematics, therefore contributing to its mainstreaming within the organisation. This is notably the case through articles on Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Shrinking Space and Economic and Social Rights distributed in EuroMed Rights' COVID-19 newsletter. A prime example is the press release defending the right of Moroccan cross-border workers (mostly women) of Ceuta and Melilla to get back home after the borders were closed down.



SHRINKING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

COVID-19 side effect: even more repression

In recent years, many governments across the Euro-Mediterranean region have tended to adopt ever more repressive measures and policies to curtail civil society activism and muzzle critical voices. In 2020, the issue of the shrinking spaces for civil society continued to be mainstreamed across all programmes. Yet, with the COVID-19 pandemic that has exacerbated this already existing widespread trend, EuroMed Rights and its members decided to increase monitoring and documentation of the violations and restrictions on human rights in the whole region to capture the impact of specific COVID-19 related regulations. This work was widely publicised through the network's monthly dedicated newsletter.

On another topic, EuroMed Rights started collecting information on how government-organised NGOs (GoNGOs) spread alternative human rights narratives to support authoritarian governments. GoNGOs push organisations working on women rights and trade unionists out of the political space, and through their actions, complete the arsenal of restrictive laws and abusive practices put in place by governments to shrink the space available for civil society to organise and defend human rights. This work led to the release, early 2021, of a report that focuses on the many difficulties faced by independent activists and trade unionists in Algeria, Egypt and Turkey. Based on first-hand testimonies, it also provides an analysis of the repressive legislative environment against civil society activism.

OUTREACH

Synchronising communication and advocacy

The year 2020 saw the continuation of synchronising communication and advocacy efforts with a view to reaching out to, and influencing various stakeholders, i.e. journalists, policy- and decision-makers, and the public at large. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has limited EuroMed Rights' capacity to practice advocacy offline, it has led to an increased recourse to online solutions, even boosting our online communication skills among staff and member organisations, both impacting the level of expenses and reducing our carbon footprint.

Several solutions were implemented to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Among these were the creation of a monthly digital newsletter, the development of audio-visual content and the organisation of targeted webinars.

This period also provided an impetus for communication and advocacy in the framework of internal coordination with the programmes, notably on improving message targeting and working processes.

At the end of the year, EuroMed Rights launched a series of online training sessions for member and partner organisations on the functioning of the EU institutions and how to engage with them on human rights. These sessions were attended by 38 unique participants from all over the region (12 different countries), who expressed their satisfaction to benefit from such interactive training.



World Refugee Day 2021: 20 years later, pushbacks everywhere

On 20 June 2001, the United Nations celebrated the first World Refugee Day to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention. Twenty years later, instead of enjoying better ...

[Read more](#)



Spaces of violence and resistance: women's rights in the digital world

As online spaces become increasingly central in our everyday lives, forms of online violence have proliferated and we are witnessing an escalation in their enactment, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. ...

[Read more](#)



Turkey: Joint statement on the International Fair Trial Day

Today, 14 June 2021, marks the inaugural International Fair Trial Day (IFTD) which will be observed for the first time worldwide. The focus country of the IFTD this year is ...

[Read more](#)

Online training guide – EU advocacy

Step 1: The European Union

1. The European Council
2. The EU Member States
3. The Council of the European Union
4. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
5. The European External Action Service
6. The European Commission
7. The European Parliament
8. The European Economic and Social Committee

Step 2: EU instruments and policies

1. EU global human rights commitments
2. EU commitments in its policy towards the Southern Mediterranean
3. EU commitments in bilateral relations with Southern neighbourhood countries

Step 3: Design an Effective EU Advocacy Roadmap

1. How to develop an advocacy roadmap?



ABOUT EUOMED RIGHTS

A network representing 65 human rights organisations active in 30 countries. It was founded in 1997, following the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, by civil society organisations dedicated to promoting human rights and democracy within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



List of Members

Regular members

Algeria: SNAPAP • Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie • Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH) **Bulgaria:** Center for Legal Aid - Voice of Bulgaria **Cyprus:** Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism (KISA) • Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - MIGS **Czech Republic:** People in Need **Denmark:** KVINFO • Dignity (RCT) • Danish Institute for Human Rights **Egypt:** Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies • Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA) • New Woman Foundation **Finland:** Tampere Peace Research Institute **France:** Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes • Ligue de l'Enseignement • Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH) **Greece:** Greek Council for Refugees • Greek Committee for International Democratic Society (EEDDA) **Ireland:** 80:20 Acting and Educating for a Better World **Israel/OPT:** Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) • Al-Haq • Al Mezan Center for Human Rights • The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) • B'Tselem • ADALAH, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel • Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) **Italy:** Italian Refugee Council (CIR) • ARCI - Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana **Jordan:** Mizan Law Group for Human Rights • Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J) • Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARRD - Legal Aid) **Lebanon:** ALEF - Act for human rights • Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) • Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon (PHRO) **Morocco/Western Sahara:** Adala-Justice • Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (OMDH) • Espace Associatif • Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH) • Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM) **Portugal:** Liga Portuguesa dos Direitos Humanos – Civitas **Spain:** Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR) • Human Rights Institute of Catalonia • Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos • Internationalisme, Solidarité et Féminisme (SUDS) **Sweden:**

Kvinna till Kvinna **Syria:** Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies • Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) **Tunisia:** Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux (FTDES) • Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie (CRLDHT) • Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH) • Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD) • Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des Deux Rives (FTCR) **Turkey:** Citizens Assembly • Human Rights Association **United Kingdom:** Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG) • Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales | **Regional:** Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) • Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) • African and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) • European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH) • Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI).

Associate members

Amnesty International • Association for the Prevention of Torture • International Federation for Human Rights • Human Rights Watch • Norwegian Helsinki Committee • World Organisation Against Torture • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Honorary members

Michel Tubiana (Honorary President) • Kamel Jendoubi (Honorary President) • Marie Lavrentiadou • Emrah Seyhanlioglu • Lone Lindholt • Eva Norström • Iain Byrne • Theocharis Papamargaris • Driss El-Yazami • Bahey El-Din Hassan • Annette Jünemann • Samira Trad • Christina M. Merkel • Madjid Benchikh • Khemais Chammari • Georges Assaf • Anna Bozzo-Curti • Maysa Zorob.

Executive Committee

The General Assembly is the supreme body of EuroMed Rights; it meets every three years and elects the Executive Committee.

The 2018-2021 Executive Committee is composed of:

Wadih Al-Asmar, President

Secretary general of the movement SOLIDAR (support of Lebanese detained arbitrarily) and President of the Lebanese Centre for Human rights (CLDH). Wadih Al-Asmar is also one of the founders of the Lebanese social movement #youStink.



Catherine Teule, Vice President

Vice-President of the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH). Catherine Teule is particularly interested in issues concerning the right of asylum and migration. She publishes articles and briefings on these themes.



Moataz El Fegier, Treasurer

Member of the board of directors for the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). Moataz El-Fegier is also the MENA protection coordinator for Front Line Defenders, and co-founder and secretary general of the Egyptian Human Rights Forum.



David Bondia

President of the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia. David Bondia has been a professor in public international law and international relations at the University of Barcelona since 1995.



Theodora Christou

Executive member of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales. Theodora Christou is a barrister and an academic teaching at the London School of Economics and at Queen Mary University of London. Her primary areas of expertise are human rights, international and comparative law.



Lubna Dawany

Secretary general of Jordanian association Mizan for Law. Lubna Dawany is also a Legal Advisor and Board Member of the Family Development Association. Since the 1990s, she has co-founded a number of NGOs in Jordan to fight violence against women, human rights and women rights.



Søs Nissen

Programme manager for the MENA region at Dignity, Denmark. Søs Nissen also worked for 10 years with the Danish Institute Against Torture to support human rights work against torture in the region.



Diana Radoslavova

Head attorney and founder of the “Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria”. She is actively engaged in counseling, litigation and representation of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in front of administrative authorities and courts in Bulgaria and Europe.



Franco Uda

Member of the National Board of the Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI) and Vice President of ARCS (ARCI's NGO). Franco is a member of the boards of the European Civic Forum and the Solidar International Cooperation Forum. He works mostly on human rights, peace and solidarity.



Messaoud Romdhani

Founding member of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES). Messaoud Romdhani is also a vice-president of the Tunisian Human Rights League and publication director at the Committee for the Respect of Liberties and Human Rights in Tunisia (CRLDHT).



Jamila Sayouri

Lawyer and the President of the Moroccan association Adala – Justice for the right to a fair trial. Jamila Sayouri is also a member of the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH) and the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights.



Hamdi Shaqqura

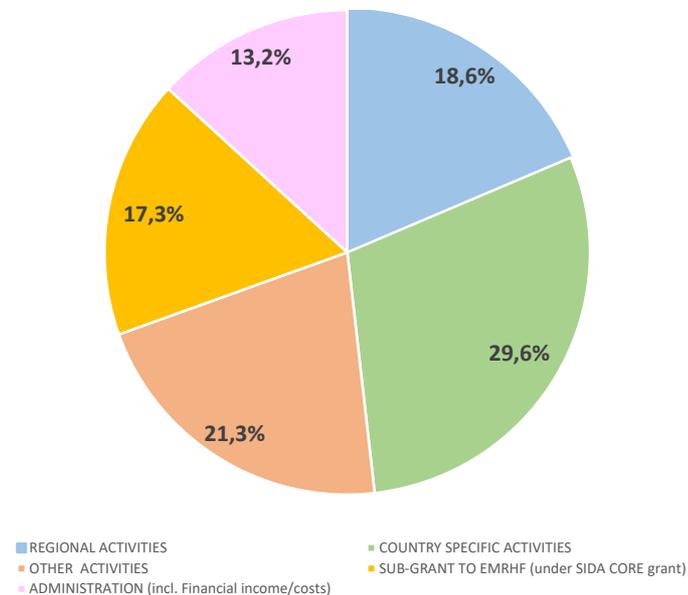
Deputy Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights for Program Affairs. His main area of expertise is democratic development, and civil and political rights.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Expenses 2020

<u>Thematic approaches</u>	EUR	%
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	142 424	3,5%
Shrinking Space/Majalat	271 331	6,7%
Migration	220 757	5,5%
Economic & Social Rights	113 640	2,8%
TOTAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	748 151	18,6%
<u>Country approaches</u>		
Tunisia	544 564	13,5%
Algeria	88 439	2,2%
Syria	0	0,0%
Egypt	287 926	7,2%
Palestine, Israel & the Palestinians	152 840	3,8%
Morocco	69 722	1,7%
Turkey	47 519	1,2%
TOTAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	1 191 009	29,6%
<u>Other activities</u>		
Advocacy & Training	236 349	5,9%
Project Monitoring & Evaluation	94 435	2,3%
Communication	194 579	4,8%
Members & Partnership	0	0,0%
Executive Bodies	154 453	3,8%
Fundraising	64 279	1,6%
Human resources	112 130	2,8%
TOTAL OTHER ACTIVITIES	856 225	21,3%
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	2 795 385	69,4%
Administration (incl. Financial income/costs)	532 320	13,2%
Sub-grant to EMHRF (under SIDA CORE grant)	698 281	17,3%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	4 025 986	100,0%



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