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**Statement Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"**

**On the occasion of World Youth Day**

**"Let's build a future with the wisdom of the elderly and the strength of the youth"**

"SHAMS" Center commemorates the struggle of the Arab youth and their legitimate defense of the causes and concerns of their peoples. We respectfully stand today before the great youths who shape the future of their peoples with their blood, souls, hunger, agony and determination to press ahead towards the Arab awakening ending the chapter of defeat, subjugation and dictatorship. They revolted to defend the resources and achievements of their nations. Millions of the Arab youth launched to address the social and political concerns of their nation proving self-awareness, loyalty, deep understanding of history and cultural identity.

"SHAMS" recalls that despite youths participation in the Arab revolutions, they still confront big challenges. Illiteracy is still very high and the gap between labor market and graduates is very broad. Unemployment among the youth is very high necessitating reformation of the educational system in a manner that guarantees qualitative education and job opportunities and social security.

"SHAMS" Center stresses that effecting change should lead to building youths' mind based on freedom, innovation and ability to think, invent and explore. The youth have creative energy and tenacious cognitive and physical abilities as well as the spirit of giving and sacrifice. In order to build a promising future for the youth (males, females), we should double our effort and activate plans, programs and strategies pertaining to the youth to know of their attitudes and understand their concerns and interests. We should search for best formulations of how to integrate them being efficient human capital. This would push governmental and civil society organizations shoulder their responsibilities.



“SHAMS” calls for activation of the political participation of the youth. As long as the youth are political not active, they continue to be ticking bombs especially they suffer political vacuum because of marginalization and negligence of their issues in the political parties and programs. This is due to the nature of these parties and their youth-oriented programs and political discourse. This requires reconsideration of how to activate youths’ energies, recruiting them to the parties and public activities and activation of community based organizations by reformulating their priorities and programs in line with the national agenda to integrate its work with that of the official institutions.

“SHAMS” believes in the necessity of making change to exit from the dark tunnel. Such process is impeded by difficulties and hurdles because of the history that is full of defeats, risks, retreats, retrogression and divisiveness. Despite that, the present is conducive to a better and more humane future enabling the youth to play an intrinsic role in the process of change being the basic dynamic of that change. They can create new ideas and new ways of expressing their concerns. The youth are full of enthusiasm, creativity and liveliness necessary for change and renewal. They have the ability to revolt and rebel to break the shackles and barriers hindering their aspirations.

“SHAMS” calls for amendment of the local and legislative law to ensure the right of the youth to candidate and elect, further role of the civil society organizations towards the youth, formulation of a national strategy designed by the youth, encouragement of youths’ initiatives by the government, creation of job opportunities and reduction of unemployment, activation of different mass media to guide the youth, demanding the private sector to effectively contribute to social responsibility and youth support programs, allowing youth experience sharing, supporting youth organizations and dissemination of culture, tolerance and co-existence among the youth.

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