

Newsletter for October 2009

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Jerusalem / Saturday, 3/10/2009

"SHAMS" Center held a workshop on "Youth and Democratic Participation" in the city of Jerusalem addressing the role of young actors in building their societies, and the mechanisms for their participation in the decision-making process, in addition to empowerment of youth and the importance of development plans to focus on the need of involving young people, given that the Palestinian society is know as young society.

At end of the workshop participants called for involving youth in the preparation of development plans, and taking into account the priorities and needs of young people and importance of giving the adequate opportunities to access to decision-making centers.



Tulkarm/Monday, 5/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Tulkarm on "school role in child upbringing: between thinking and teaching", addressing the role of school in the socialization and upbringing process of children, and modern methods and means which can be used in the educational process away from instruction and dictation methods used in most traditional educational institutions, in addition, the workshop addressed the different stages that have influence in shaping the child's personality and behavior patterns in school, and how the student can use modern techniques to build an independent personality, capable of interacting with the society and investing the available inventions and discoveries, at the end of the workshop, participants recommended the need to work on the liberation of the student from traditional methods of education and to use modern methods which call for respect of the student creativity and appreciate and recognize his experience and ensure capacity building and training of mentors and teachers in schools.



Hebron / Tuesday, 6/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Hebron on "The role of media in promoting the values of dialogue", by disseminating the concept of positive constructive dialogue between individuals and accept opposing views, it also addressed the role of media in promoting dialogue based on tolerance and the avoidance of anger arising from a conflict of ideas and attitudes of the individuals in the society, also the workshop addressed and the media as a tool in explaining and conveying the public opinion under the democratic atmosphere neutrally and objectively, where participants at the conclusion of the workshop called upon media to focus on programs that help the dissemination of culture of dialogue and cultural exchange and acceptance of one another in the community, also demanded that a neutral and objective media institutions is necessary to achieve the noble values among individuals.



Ramallah/Saturday, 10/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in Al Quds Open University in Ramallah on the "right to life: on the occasion of World Day Against the Death Penalty", the workshop addressed the history of the death penalty, and opinions regarding executions (pro-and anti), and the position of international organizations from this punishment, and the role of civil society institutions to work towards the abolition of this crime. Participants urged the United Nations to issue a binding decision to abolish the death penalty, with the caveat that the death penalty is a clear violation of human rights, specifically the right to life as enshrined in international conventions, attendees stressed the need to amend laws in force on the death penalty in the Palestinian territories.



Jericho/Monday, 12/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Jericho on "Accountability and transparency in the institutions of civil society", the workshop addressed the role of civil society institutions in strengthening the concepts of accountability and transparency, and in adapting effective tools that can be used by these organizations to reach high degree of transparency in the work, also the workshop discussed the importance of transparency that leads for genuine accountability based on clear information, and the role of accountability in the protection of the interests of individuals, where the attendees confirmed the need to have transparent institutions for civil society so as to facilitate accountability and liability, on the other hand, participants emphasized on the need to work on the preparation of programs for the empowerment of small and newly established organization and the need to activate public bodies and the boards of NGOs.



Salfit/Thursday, 15/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Salfit on "European aid to the Palestinians: between development and relief", the workshop discussed the assistance of the European Union for the Palestinians, which aims to promote stability , economic recovery and reform, and institution-building, where the Palestinian Authority, and since the signing of the Barcelona Declaration in 1995 becomes a full and equal partner of the European - Mediterranean partnership and in EU support. At the end of the workshop, participants call the European Union to assume its role in the political process which should be commensurate with its economic size.



Bethlehem/Saturday, 17/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Bethlehem on "Poverty and Human Rights", on the occasion of World Day to combat poverty, the workshop addressed poverty as a violation of human rights that affects the dignity of humanity, where participants recommended the need to revive the economy and create more economic opportunities and increase development projects, and the creation of effective programs aimed to reduce poverty on a sustainable basis, also participants called upon the Palestinian government to take actions for the development of the poor and their families and to place combating poverty at top of priorities, and to shed more lights on the marginalized and poor areas by taking joint initiatives with the private sector and civil society institutions in developing programs and plans that are conducive to curb the expansion of poverty, and urge the government officials to commemorate this event by visiting the

poor areas in order to identify needs and interventions where some tools are suggested such as the establishment of a development bank, Bank of food, and the adoption of corporate social responsibility of the private sector, and to increase budgets of the related ministries.



Tulkarem, Saturday, 17/10/2009

the Center has organized a voluntary work day and a field visit to the city of Tulkarem with the participation of more than 70 volunteers from various West Bank and Arab cities beyond the green line.

Volunteers carried out voluntary work day in the Arab Orphan House in the city within the framework of "yalla shabab yalla sabaya" project, The visit included a series of voluntary activities and a visit the "Apartheid Wall" which cuts large areas of the West Bank where Volunteers learned about the suffering of farmers as a result of the Israeli occupation forces daily practices and violations, and also learned about steadfastness of those farmers and their clinging to their lands, the visit includes discussions with farmers whose land was affected by the wall, , also Volunteers visited the shrine of daughters of the Prophet Jacob located in Irtah village in the suburb of the city of Tulkarem and identified the some important features of the ancient places.

as an initiative proposed by the youth group to support the orphans, the group has conducted some entertainment activities at the orphanage by representing a play aiming at strengthening their commitment to their lands and to the emerging Palestinian homeland, their schools, homes and families, as well as a series of paragraphs of art entertainment, mimicking the situation in which the Palestinian youth face depression and unemployment and the tendency to migrate, in addition volunteers distributed range of gifts to draw a smile on the faces of children orphans, and bring joy and happiness to their hearts.



Bethlehem/Monday, 19/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Bethlehem on "Role of youth in promoting a culture of tolerance", The workshop discussed the definition of the concept of tolerance, and the role of tolerance in the promotion of world peace. Also highlighted the role of youth in promoting and strengthening a culture of tolerance in their societies.

Participants in the workshop called for an initiatives leadership to promote culture of dialogue and tolerance within the community and work to introduce the concepts of tolerance in the education syllabus, and the need to work on reducing all forms of intolerance within the community.



Jenin/Monday, 19/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Jenin on "good governance", The workshop discussed the concept and structure of good governance and the sustainable human development and its relationship to good governance in link with the democratic political system and the separation of powers, also the workshop discussed the importance of good governance in promoting the participation of all segments of society and its institutions and political parties in the management and direction of public life in order to achieve the public interests. At the end of the workshop, participants recommended the need to the peaceful transfer of power, and periodic transparent elections at all levels, and to the concerted efforts of the public sector,

private sector and civil society institutions. And the fight against corruption, strengthening the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, and strengthening accountability.



Tulkarm/Tuesday, 20/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Tulkarem on "tolerance as an ethical and humane concept", a concept that deals with values and its moral role in promoting dialogue, based on the principles of tolerance Declaration issued by the United Nations on November 16, 1995, and the relationship between tolerance and human rights, democracy, tolerance and how it becomes a prerequisite and a necessary need for establishing and building a new culture of peace after the world has emerged from the Cold War, participants recommended the need to support the initiatives for dialogue based on tolerance, and the establishment of a new culture believes in differences, by using all methods available for creating a culture of dialogue based on respect for the other.



Ramallah/Wednesday, 21/10/2009

In the context of strengthening the role of youth in supporting the rule of law, the Center held a training course in Best Eastern Hotel in Ramallah lasted for four days in the presence of the targeted youth group from Qalqilya, the training themes were on the political systems and separation of powers, the history of civil legislation, types of courts in Palestine, tribal courts, and how to manage the sessions hearing and discussion, participants recommended the need to work on holding more training sessions on the legal issues to other youth groups in order to maximize benefit to largest possible number of young people from different areas. The training program involves visits to the some courthouses and plenary sessions and meetings with decision-makers.



Tubas / Thursday, 22/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in Tubas town on "Women's rights in the Palestinian legislation", , addressed the social and economic rights, and Palestinian laws from a gender perspective, and the negative effects on women's rights by the failure of the Legislative Council to adopt the penal codes and personal status laws, which human rights institutions and women's institutions are struggling for. Participants stressed the need to work to enact laws that protect women and ensure their legal rights especially the penal code, citing the need to continue awareness programs of women's rights.



Hebron/Sunday, 25/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Hebron on "The role of Arab and Muslim communities abroad in promoting the culture of tolerance", the workshop addressed the importance of the role of Arab and Muslim communities in building a bridge of dialogue with other communities and their role in promoting a culture of tolerance, participants stressed the need for dialogue based on openness and constructive criticism associated with deep vision and scrutiny and away from the slogans and the media hype in order to change the stereotypical image of Arabs and Islam that emerged in the West throughout the decades, and the need to play a greater role in defending our just and fair causes by opening channels of dialogue with the West, and the need to work to

support the Arab and Muslim communities abroad to be able to take its rightful role as a bridge for dialogue between East and West.



Ramallah/Sunday, 25/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Ramallah on "the Role of United Nations Radio in promoting human rights and in fighting against racism", and on the role of media in shaping public opinion and the role of United Nations Radio in disseminating the concepts of democracy and human rights, also most important successes of UN radio have been discussed on the realm of human rights and other humanitarian issues and the dissemination of a culture of human rights which have had a major impact on the local level, also talk concentrated about media means and its role in disclosing and preventing violations against human rights, finally participants stressed the need to include media organizations, whether read or audible or visible in such discussion, and called upon media institutions to devote part of their programs to focus on human rights issues.



Nablus/Monday, 26/10/2009

the Center held a workshop in the city of Nablus on "Dialogue of Civilizations", addressing the importance of initiating the dialogue of civilizations on a larger scale between the North and South under serious evaluation whether such dialogue is or isn't feasible as well as the dialogue between the Arab world and the West, there is no dispute that Islam is a religion of dialogue, and that Muslims are by innate nature are inclined to dialogue to dialogue with the other, the workshop addressed the importance of adopting dialogue as a mean to resolve differences and vexing issues, in addition, participants recommended to work on fostering dialogue among civilizations, away from all forms of hegemony, domination and exploitation.

TV & Radio interviews

Venue	Title	Media Agency	Date	No.
Ramallah	Death Penalty	Ajyal Radio	2009/10/20	1
Ramallah	Death Penalty as a crime against humanity	Al-Istiklal TV	2009/10/12	2
Ramallah	Poverty and unemployment and their relation to Human Rights	Al-Istiklal TV	2009/10/17	3

Center's activities news in local newspapers

Page	newspaper	Date	Title	No.
33	Al-quds	2009/10/4	Workshop on role of International Agencies in protecting human rights	1
8	Alhayya	2009/10/4	Workshop on role of UN agencies in defending human rights	2
10	Al-Ayyam	2009/10/4	Workshop in Nablus city on developing the mechanisms of applying the human rights law and pursuing war criminals	3
13	Al-quds	2009/10/ 5	Workshop in Nablus city on international and regional mechanisms of protecting human rights	4
12	Al-Ayyam	2009/10/ 1	Workshop in Tulkarem calling for modernizing the educational methods	5
13	Al-quds	2009/10/ 11	workshop on democratic education for children	6
7	Alhayya	2009/10/ 11	workshop in Elar village on the importance of teaching democratic principles in schools	7
8	Al-quds	2009/10/ 11	declaration of establishing the Arab defenders union for human rights	8
15	Al-quds	2009/10/17	workshop on abolition of death penalty from Palestinian legislation	9
11	Al-quds	2009/10/19	"SHAMS" center demands the PNA to place poverty issues on top of priorities	10
23	Al-quds	2009/10/22	Meeting in Seeda village on culture of tolerance	11
11	Al-quds	2009/10/24	workshops of the center in Rummani, Seilat al Haretheya villages and Jenin city	12

Activities of the center with other organizations

Location	Activity Title	Hosting Agency	Date	No.
Independent Commission for Human Rights	Workshop to present the report of the provisions of a legal review of torture in the legal system	Independent Commission for Human Rights	2009/10/6	1
Al-Beireh Municipality Hall	A workshop on the legislative and presidential elections	Observatory of the Arab world to democracy and elections	2009/10/6	2
Rocky Hotel	Conference on the occasion of World Day for Decent Work	Center for Democracy and the rights of employees + Federation of Independent Unions + Amman Center	2009/10/10	3
Palestinian Red Crescent Society	security services Officers graduation	Center for Victims of Torture	2009/10/13	4
		-	2009/10/20	5
			2009/10/21	6

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