

**Monthly newsletter for September 2009**

<http://www.shams-pal.org>



**Tubas / Monday, 7/9/2009**

\* In the town of Tubas, "SHAMS" Center held a workshop on the common and mutual interests between the Arabs and Europe, The workshop discussed the historical relationship between Europe and the Arabs due to the advantage of the geographical proximity of the two regions and due to the common denominators that should play a catalyst for strengthening the mutual ties, and achieve further reciprocal relations and compatibility. Participants in the workshop recommended the need for the European Union to play the role of real and effective partner in the Middle East peace process; they also recommended the establishment of a free trade zone between the Arabs and the European Union to promote exchanges in various fields. Attendees stressed the importance of gaining the European Union as a partner and strategic ally in the region.

**Nablus / Tuesday, 8/9/2009**

\* In Nablus city, the Center held a workshop on international and regional mechanisms to protect human rights, the workshop dealt with the historical evolution of the concept of human rights and ways and means adopted internationally for the protection of human rights and the role of the United Nations in the maintaining these rights and in unveiling different abuses and violations occur around the world, participants stressed the need to monitor human rights violations and need to pursue prosecutions and trials for those who violate human rights by local and international organizations. they also demanded the United Nations to provide legal protection, and the need to compel the occupying Power to comply the International Bill of Human Rights.

**Salfit / Wednesday, 9/9/2009**

\* In the city of Salfit, the Center held a workshop on media role inspreading the values of tolerance and acceptance of others.

The workshop addressed the role of local media in disseminating the values of tolerance among community members where participants confirmed the importance of various media means- whether visual , read or audio -in disseminating values of tolerance and culture dialogue in the society, they also urged media to act responsibly and to adopt a tolerant approach in its media messages in order to play a constructive role in the society, on the other hand participants highlight the need to build the capacity of media staff and to make them aware of human rights concepts and tolerance, and acceptance of others.

#### **Jerusalem / Thursday, 10/9/2009**

\* In the village of Biddu, the Center held a workshop on the social upbringing and its role in the dissemination of democratic culture, the workshop addressed the definition of democracy concept and the role of the family in education, as well as the role of schools and universities in the deployment of a democratic culture. Attendees stressed the need to instill democratic values and principles within the family to reflect results on the entire society, participants stressed the need to teach the concept of democracy within the curricula in order to sow the seeds for democracy within the society. They also called for the need to intensify awareness-raising programs about democracy for families, especially in rural and marginalized areas, according to a continuous program and frequent visits to the same region.

#### **Tulkarm / Sunday, 13/9/2009**

\* In the city of Tulkarem, the Center held a workshop on the murder against the backdrop of the so-called honor killing, the workshop discussed the concept of crime in general, and its linkage to what so called honor killings and also addressed the double concepts of honor and role of law in relation to the crime of honor killings. Participants demanded the legislator to amend the law articles that may offer impunity or excuses that may mitigate punishments of offenders of femicide, and highlighted the need for the enactment of the new Palestinian sanctions "penal code" that guarantees proper and fair punishments.

Attendees urged the media to play an effective role in the dissemination and promotion of women's rights in international and domestic laws, and to highlight the need to punish offenders and apply non-discriminatory punishment. Also they recommended clergy and preachers to refrain from dominance of unilateral thinking and political ideologies that distort religion and manipulate the texts and purposes that justify discrimination and the practice of all forms of violence on women.

#### **Ramallah / Tuesday, 15/9/2009**

\* in the city of Ramallah, and on the occasion of International Day of Democracy, the Center held a workshop on the role of youth in the dissemination of democratic values, , the workshop discussed

the concept of democracy and methods of implementation and the role of young actors in the dissemination of the concept of democracy. Significant time of the workshop was allocated to talk about the International Day of Democracy and its importance in advocacy of political tolerance between the parties. Participants recommended that our societies must recognize the importance to create a space of tolerance to avoid the manifestations of violence, intolerance, and political conflicts which are now sweeping over many human societies with increasing frequency, in addition to recognize diversity and difference of views and ways of thinking among the people of the same society as a de facto and a proof of the vitality and richness of our societies, as it is the safest way to achieve the «political coexistence» among the various political parties in the community.

**Participation of the Center in the activities of other institutions:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hosting Agency</b>	<b>Nature of Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1	3/9/2009	National Coalition for the Global Call to Action against Poverty	Meeting of the members to discuss the annual plan of coalition	Working Women's Society - Ramallah
2	8/9/2009	Coalition Against the Death Penalty	The signing of a memorandum of understanding on alliance	Palestinian Center for Human Rights - Ramallah
3	14/9/2009	NGO Network	The signing of the campaign to protect civil rights	Palestinian Red Crescent Society - Ramallah
4	14/9/2009	Vision Foundation	Collective breakfast	Manna' Center - Ramallah
5	15/9/2009	Women's Studies Center	charity Breakfast to collect donations for university students	Best Eastern Hotel - Ramallah
6	16/9/2009	Jerusalem Center for Legal Assistance	solidarity Day with the Sawiya village	Sawiya village - Nablus
7	24/9/2009	Naseej project and Save the Children Foundation	Meeting of the regional partners of Naseej	Dead Sea - Jordan

8	26/9/2009	Ana Lindh	Press conference	Best Eastern Hotel - Ramallah
---	-----------	-----------	------------------	-------------------------------

**News articles of the Center in the press:**

NO.	Title	Date	Newspaper	Page Number
1	child rights conventions and national and international instruments	3/9/2009	<b>Alquds</b>	<b>22</b>
2	"SHAMS" gained the membership status in the Arab- European Center for human rights and international humanitarian law	15/9/2009	<b>Alquds</b>	<b>14</b>
3	"SHAMS" gained the membership status in the Arab- European Center for human rights and international humanitarian law	15/9/2009	<b>Alhayya</b>	<b>10</b>
4	"SHAMS" Center calls for political tolerance and the peaceful transfer of power	17/9/2009	<b>Alquds</b>	<b>10</b>

**Address:**

Ramallah – behind German Representative Office- Raha Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Tel: 0097022985254**

**Fax:009702298525**

**Mobile: 00972599525094**

**P.O.Box: Ramallah 429**

**Website: <http://www.shams-pal.org>**

**Email: [info@shams-pal.org](mailto:info@shams-pal.org) & [c\\_shams@hotmail.com](mailto:c_shams@hotmail.com)**