

Special report: Human Rights Youth Camp  
<http://www.shams-pal.org>

*The Center for Human Rights and Democracy “SHAMS” within the context of seeking to conduct a camp for the youth entitled the Human Rights Youth Camp for the duration of four days and that happened at the Murad tourism resort in the city of Bethlehem which comes within continuous efforts which the center seeks through it to reinforce the value of human rights and democracy within Palestinian youth where the camp hosted a number of intellectual, political, and social leaders to create a link between them and the Palestinian youth.*

### **Bishop Atallah Hanna affirms that the youth are the hope of this nation**

The Center for Human Rights and Democracy “SHAMS” hosted in an intellectual meeting with Archbishop Atallah Hanna of Sabastia of the Roman Orthodox church within the activities of the Human Rights Youth Camp the Archbishop gave a lecture entitled “The youth and the required values” where he was greeted by the director of the SHAMS Center Dr. Omar Rahhal and the participating youth at the camp. He spoke with his vowed honesty calling the youth to remain steadfast in their morals as that is the primary requirement to create any change towards the better, and he said “you are the future for in your steadfastness, your morals, values, and your grasp on your identity you can do many things for this homeland and its just cause”. Bishop Hanna also added the importance that the youth should have wisdom, responsibility and awareness, and that the youth have to be a factor to unite all sides ending the divisions and correcting the wrongs, for if the revolution’s youth in the Arab world are struggling for reform and change towards the better, we should struggle for ending the division and the occupation. Bishop Hanna also spoke on the topic of Jerusalem its religious and national importance emphasizing it as a meeting place for Christianity, Islam, and cooperation for the national cause and others, Archbishop Hanna also spoke on Kairos Palestine which was issued by various Palestinian Christian holy men, Kairos Palestine shows the Christian stance towards the Palestinian cause assuring that as Palestinian Christians they are biased towards justice, and the defense of this cause in all forums. Archbishop Hanna also mentioned that there is an envoy of Palestinian Christians heading towards South Africa between the first and the tenth of April where there will be conferences, lectures, and meetings on a large scale of importance, the envoy headed by the Archbishop Hanna will meet with the former president of South Africa Mr. Nelson Mandela as well as Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The meetings are to be with religious and rights symbols in the cities of Johannesburg and Cape town.





### **Ghannam: the youth have a great inheritance of sacrifice and giving.**

Dr. Leila Ghannam governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh affirmed that the youth have a great inheritance of sacrifice and giving through the various phases of the Palestinian struggle, point that the energies of the youth must be tapped to build a society built on democracy, participation, and freedom of expression and volunteer initiatives, carrying the flag of construction and leadership in the future. Ghannam clarified that the youth have a role in building its capacities on the foundation of public interest away from extremism and party affiliations which have wasted the potential of youth and aimed their efforts and creativity towards serving the party over the benefit of the homeland and the general interest of the community. Ghannam also stated that the Palestinian women is able to face the hardships and that the general concept of society that men are stronger than women in many fields is wrong, as the Palestinian women has a very important value within Palestinian society through what she has done across the decades of the Palestinian struggle assuring us that the importance of putting a plan in relation to the role of women to solve such problems and obstacles calling to empower women in activism and work within the Palestinian community to the benefits that would return to the community. Ghannam also called on Palestinian youth not to mimic others, but to create new ideas that are different. Ghannam also considered that her role as a governor appointed by the president is not a construct that she is added as a feminist factor but on a scientific and professional basis is what had given her the position of governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, calling to reform the Palestinian bond between the sides and ending the Palestinian division.



### **Naseef Al- Mu'allim: The Palestinian factions have a long history of struggle across the decades.**

In a different context Mr. Naseef Al-Mu'allim director of the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy reaffirmed that many of the Palestinian factions have a long history in the Palestinian struggle, but these factions ignore the role of the youth in making the decisions and in performing various activities within them. Presenting the topic of the community with the internal division within it which has varied between the private sector to the civil sector, to the family sector where each group of these has institutes to care for its affairs, where the governments' role is to pressure the civil society organizations and the private sector assuring that there is an important role for the families within Arab communities among them the Palestinian one in regards to the issues that may occur within the community considering the clan (family) a part that can not be removed from the community, calling to mind the days of the British mandate in Jordan and what killing had happened to take control of it between the two clans Bani Sakhr and Bani Hasan, and the effect of the clan upon that. Al-Mua'llim also touched upon the roles of the Political party that are built on the organization of the masses and spreading its ideas within the community and work to make the masses active to conflict resolution whether it was internal external including reaching leadership positions within the community pointing that one of the roles regarding Political parties is the struggle and resistance against the occupation. Adding that the political factions have been seeking from the beginning of their inception that they wished to reach power as well as

form alliances with sides that may be considered as supporting them, that falling under the framework of general good and seeking to create the bond between it and the people which is on the list of interests.

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### **Qais Abdul-Kareem: The Arab revolutions' goals are political reform and democracy.**

Qais Abdul-Kareem member of the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization spoke on the role of Arab youth stating that they began continuous revolutions nonstop aiming for change, assuring that the Arab peoples have suffered under the oppression of dictatorships that assault freedoms and do not respect human rights where these corrupt governments aimed to dismantle the groups of revolutionary youth that seek to put freedoms on the list of priorities within Arab communities stating that the youth seek to remove these archaic and oppressive systems through civil means assuring that the youth revolutions created a turning point in their countries to create democratic systems that respect the rights of citizens and human rights in general considering such tasks are not easy and require ample supplies of effort to be achieved, the Palestinian people should benefit from these revolutions but in another direction to end the Palestinian division which would be considered a key to show the form of Palestinian democracy in creating its state, for without ending the division there can be no change mentioned on the Palestinian street, stating that those whom are in the streets crying out like their counterparts in other Arab countries are the same youth whom are crying out with the peak of their voice to end the Palestinian division.

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### **Hamayel: The Arab revolutions were a surprise and the youth are the creators of these revolutions.**

Abdul-Fattah Hamayel governor of Bethlehem that the Arab revolutions were a surprise to all Arab peoples and they were special in that they moved quickly from one area to the next stating that what is happening in the Arab world is important to the Palestinian street considering it a grand step towards ending the dictatorships and creating a qualitative step towards the correct concept of democracy based on freedom of expression as a natural right guaranteed by the law assuring the importance of peaceful transition of power in a civil and democratic means that respects political and social diversity, assuring that the youth are an important factor within the Palestinian community, leaderships must respect this category by giving it the space to place themselves in a position of giving to build their state and homeland on the foundation of democracy. At the end of the camp the SHAMS Center honored the 30 participants a certificate of merit from the Center, and the participants thanked the center for its efforts in supporting the Palestinian youth.

**The program of the Human Rights Youth Camp**  
21\3\2011 -24\3\2011

**Day one: Monday 21\3\2011**

Number	Activity Title	Time	Speaker
1.	Greeting the participants	10:00AM – 11:00AM	
2.	General meeting\ official opening and introduction of the SHAMS Center	11:00AM – 11:30AM	
3.	Acquaintance and barrier breaking	11:30AM – 1:00PM	Iyad Ishtayeh\trainer and youth activist
4.	Recess	1:00PM – 1:30PM	
5.	Team building	1:30PM – 2:30PM	Iyad Ishtayeh\ trainer and youth activist
6.	Lunch break	2:30PM – 3:30PM	
7.	Youth and citizenship	3:30PM – 4:30PM	Huthayfa Said\ trainer and youth activist
8.	Film screening	4:30PM – 5:00PM	
9.	Meeting with a leader	5:00PM – 6:00PM	Dr. Leila Ghannam governor of the province of Ramallah and Al-Bireh
10.	Dinner	7:00PM – 8:00PM	
11.	Entertainment segment	8:00PM – 10:00PM	

**Day Two: Tuesday 22\3\2011**

Number	Activity title	Time	Speaker
1.	Breakfast	7:30AM – 8:30AM	
2.	The youth	8:30AM – 10:00AM	Naseef Al-Mu'allam\ Director of the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy
3.	The youth and Elections	10:00AM – 11:00AM	Dr. Talib Awad Khair
4.	Recess	11:00AM – 10:00AM	
5.	The student movement and the means to activate it	11:15AM – 12:15PM	Dr. Mohammad Al Ahmed\ Dean of the student affairs at Bir Zeit University
6.	Introduction to human rights	12:15PM – 1:30PM	Dr. Abdallah Abu Eid\ Instructor in International Law
7.	Lunch break	1:30PM – 2:30PM	

8.	Field trip to the Church of Nativity	2:30PM – 5:30PM	
9.	Meeting with the leader\ The youth and the required values	5:30PM – 7:00PM	Archbishop Atallah Hanna of Sabastia for the Roman Orthodox Church of Jerusalem.
10.	Dinner	7:00PM – 8:00PM	
11.	Trivia contest	8:00PM – 9:00PM	
12.	Entertainment segment	9:00PM – 10:00PM	

### Day Three: Wednesday 23\3\2011

Number	Activity Title	Time	Speaker
1.	Breakfast	7:30AM – 8:30AM	
2.	The youth and the leadership	8:30AM – 9:30AM	Sameer Saif\ Trainer
3.	The youth and Religion	9:30AM – 10:30AM	Father Ibraheim Nairoz\ Pastor of the Episcopal Church
4.	Recess	10:30AM – 10:45AM	
5.	Meeting with the leader	10:45AM – 12:45PM	Abdul-Fattah Hamayel\ governor of the Bethlehem province; Mr. Qais Abdul-Kareem\ Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
6.	Lunch break	1:00PM – 2:00PM	
7.	Volunteer work	2:30PM – 3:30PM	
8.	Recreational break within the resort	3:30PM – 6:00PM	
9.	Evaluation and summarization of the results of the camp	6:00PM – 7:00PM	
10.	Dinner	7:00PM – 8:00PM	
11.	Entertainment segment	8:00PM – 10:00PM	

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