



## Monthly newsletter November 2011

[www.shams-pal.org](http://www.shams-pal.org) [http](http://)

### Bruqin Saturday 19/11/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted an expanded meeting in the hall of woman’s Society in Bruqin village at Salfit governorate, about anti-corruption culture within the activities of the project “public proverb and its role in fighting corruption “funded by Coalition for Integrity and Accountability “AMAN” and it was attended by the mayor, citizens and representative of civil society organizations.

The meeting was initiated by Mohammad Hamayel from SHAMS center who mentioned that the community’s culture represents a set of accumulative values, ideas, experiences, principles and ethics which reflect the generations’ identity, control its behaviors and course in addition to differentiate them from other communities. As well, perceptions, beliefs, principles, ethics, traditions, customs, senses and daily treatments which are preserved by the nation as its cultural identity and historical features. He added that all individuals are requested to fight against strange phenomena which invade the community regarding the religious culture, the national culture or social solidarity.

From his side, the trainer Bashar Aldeek said that corruption in the Arab world is an ethical problem and it became a part of the community’s culture and social structure and a way to accomplish demands, and when corruption became widely-spread it will hinder the work of monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and if the corrupted person or member is not punished then this will become a life-style.

He also explained that some behaviors specify some trends and types which prefer the individual interest over the public interest, and what results in terms of a clear increase in the aspects of social and administrative corruption in terms of drugs, crimes, fraudulent, bribery and money laundering besides misuse of positions which threaten the community and individuals’ security. This will cause to weakening individual’s willingness to take part in changing their saturations and circumstance, creating corrupted environment for financial investments besides the immigration of creative minds outside, and this will affect the credibility and trust of the audience toward the governmental departments and outbreak and public dissatisfaction and discrimination as well as inequality and corruption’s outbreak instead of ethical practices.

Aldeek also stressed the important role for clergy men, mosques’ imam, media discourse, civil society, writers, intellectuals, Ministries of Education and Higher Education, political parties and all who are interested to end this strange phenomenon, in order to succeed in establishing an anti-corruption societal culture through an aware societal culture. It should be noted that disseminating the societal culture is the alternative among citizens to reveal the concept of corruption and expose its economic, social, political and ethical harm which lead to enhancing a societal not elite culture.

At the end, participants recommended the substance of raising citizens’ awareness about the negative effects of corruption on the process of development in its political, economic, social and cultural sides via written, audible and visual mass media besides creating a public opinion which rejects corruption, identifying citizens by guiding charts in each governmental, civil and security institution as well as rights and duties, simplifying laws and making it more obvious and transparent, removing ambiguity about law to prevent people from explaining it according to their interests and activating the role of Legislative Council and civil society organizations in fighting corruption.





**Hebron / Tuesday 21/11/2011**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted an argument at Aroub Training College in Hebron governorate. The argument included two teams consist of three students and attended by representatives of Central Elections Committee, Woman’s Union Committee, Alshajar community and Democratic Front, students and representatives from the College, it continued for more than two hours represented in raising questions and answering them followed by comments by the present people. It included the importance of youth role within the community in political participation and obstacles which hinder it, the role of political parties in enhancing their role, the role of civil society organizations in promoting their roles within the electoral process, the essence of enhancing the concept of citizenship toward youth participation besides the capacity to enhance youth role in political participation in light of judicial complications. Attendees recommended the significance to conduct workshops by local institutions so as to promote youth role as well as the principle of accepting the other.



**Birzeit / Thursday 24/11/2011**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” implemented a competition in integrity and transparency to utilize the public proverb in fighting corruption by support from Coalition for Integrity and Accountability AMAN for law faculties in (An-najah National University, Birzeit University, Alquds University and Arab American University). Many lecturers attended the competition and they were satisfied by the level of competition in terms of questions and competitors’ performance, and it was observed that students from Birzeit University were having the best luck in correct answers for several questions then Alquds and Arab American University and after that, students of An-najah University. And the majority were having a background and information regarding the issue of integrity and transparency and they had effective participation, there was a clear competition among students while the best answer get the highest points.



**Qalqilya / Monday 28/11/2011**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop at Islamic Call College in Qalqilya governorate about freedom of opinion. Journalism and expression within the project of “promoting the concepts of human rights and good governance for Sharia students in the Palestinian universities” funded and supported by Foundation For Future. The workshop was attended by several people including the dean of the college Dr. Said Rostum, a number of female and male students as well as educational and administrative staff, and the workshop was initiated by Dr. Omar Rahhal the director of SHAMS center who welcomed attendees and identified SHAMS center in addition to project’s objectives.

From her side, the activist Fida’a Barghothi mentioned that freedom of expression of ideas and opinions via speech, writing or artistic work without observing or governmental controls, but without an infringement upon the state’s laws or customs, usually freedom of expression and opinion is accompanied by rights and limits like right to freedom of prayer, journalism and peaceful assembly. While the issue of the limits is complicated to an extent since the limits stated by the country are changing in accordance with security circumstances, demography, ethnicities, communities and different religions which live within the state or group and which may affect conditions outside the state or the group.

While dr. Said Rostum stressed the importance of journalism in the spirit of democratic system but this doesn’t signify that it is absolute since it affects freedoms which have an impact beyond the individual to the community or authority and it will turn to chaos and disorder if it is absolute.

At the end of the meeting, participants recommended significance of respecting media freedoms and dealing with media as a fourth authority which controls performance, focusing on actual issues which concern citizens by the government and independent media and applying international standards for media within its activities, enacting a new law for journalism so as to support freedom of opinion and expression besides cancelling restrictions on journalism and publishing within Palestinian laws. they also requested the significance to take into consideration the standards of professionalism, transparency and objectivity in showing dialogue programs, news, analyses as well as press releases, being away from ethical issues and carrying out the suitable role of mass media.



#### Abu Dis / Thursday 29/11/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop titled as “the historical development of human rights” at the Islamic Call College within the project of promoting the concepts of human rights and good governance for Sharia students which was attended by a group of students in addition to Sharia faculty’s dean. The subject of the workshop focuses on human rights and the space of freedoms within the Arab World and its influence on the political system as well as the Arab Spring, as well participants talked about Islam and how it honored the woman and granted her the entire rights.

#### SHAMS press releases in newspapers

#	Subject	Newspaper	Page	
1	Ghannam: we are trying to have accordance between law and tribes in line with rule of law	Maan	Internet	2/11/2011
2	Ghannam: we are trying to have accordance between law and tribes in line with rule of law	Wafa	Internet	2/11/2011
3	SHAMS center emphasizes the importance of transitional justice since it is the other face of tolerance	Alquds	6	15/11/2011
4	SHAMS center emphasizes the importance of transitional justice since it is the other face of tolerance	Alhayat	12	16/11/2011
5	SHAMS center calls for using dialogue and rejecting power	Maan	Internet	16/11/2011
6	The revival of international Day Against woman’s violence in the Palestinian governorates	Alquds	11	25/11/2011
7	SHAMS center condemns inhuman practices against the Palestinian woman	Wafa	Internet	25/11/2011
8	SHAMS center calls for stopping Israeli violations	Alayyam	4	26/11/2011
9	SHAMS center condemns inhuman practices against the Palestinian woman	Alquds	42	27/11/2011

#### SHAMS media participations

#	Subject	Inviting organizations	Place	Day	Date
1	International Day of Tolerance	Nisa’a FM	Via telephone	Wednesday	16/11/2011
2	International Day of Tolerance	Palestine radio	Via telephone	Wednesday	16/11/2011
3	Using the popular scolding to call for conducting elections	Watan TV	The Clock square	Tuesday	29/11/2011
4	Using the popular scolding for election	Palestine today	The Clock square	Tuesday	29/11/2011
5	Decision No. 1325	Nisa’a FM	Via telephone	Tuesday	29/11/2011

**SHAMS participations with other organizations**

#	Subject	Place	Inviting organization	Day	Date
1	Arranging for the second conference of youth	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Wednesday	16/11/2011
2	The Palestinian movement toward Security Council	The organization's venue	Awrad organization	Wednesday	16/11/2011
3	Annual meeting with ICHR commissioners	Caesar hotel	Sharek Forum	Saturday	26/11/2011
4	Legal researches competition	Beast Eastern hotel	Independent Commission for Human Rights	Wednesday	7/11/2011
5	Arabic revolutions and human rights	Cairo	Amman Center for studies and human rights	Sunday Monday Tuesday	11- 13/11/2011

**SHAMS center address**

**Ramallah, Almassyoun, Louis Favre st. Sindyan 3 building 1<sup>st</sup> floor**

0097022985254Tel :

009702298525Fax :

00972599525094Mobile :

429 P.O.box Ramallah

[www.shams-pal.org](http://www.shams-pal.org) website:

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