



مركز إعلام حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية شمس  
Human Rights and Democracy Media Center  
SHAMS



**Monthly newsletter for December 2009**

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



**Hebron 6/12/2009**

Human Right and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop on the subject of “**Religion and State in Europe**” in Dura town in Hebron governorate. The workshop tackled the political systems of the EU countries in terms of the relationship between religions and politics historically and the concept of secular country which is based on democratic constitution that respects the human dignity, while attendees considered arranging the relationship between the religion and state as a central pillar for a democratic system. At the end of the workshop attendees recommended the importance of Muslims’ political engagement in Europe as well as the importance for Islamic and Arabic existence in Europe for their interests.

**Nablus/ Monday 7/12/2009**

Human Right and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop about “**International day for human rights defenders**”. The workshop handled the significance of the International Declaration of Human Rights on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December annually and identifying participants with the importance of rights besides a discussion about Israeli violations against human rights. At the end attendees recommended the importance of awareness regarding the concepts of human rights and call for unifying and coordinating efforts.

**Jenin/ Wednesday 9/12/2009**

Human Right and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop regarding “**International Declaration of Human Rights: significations and lessons**” on the occasion of the 61 anniversary for the International Declaration of Human Rights in Jenin. The workshop tackled the importance of this declaration and its main articles which stipulate respecting human rights, the role of UN in disseminating as well as preserving human rights values and the key signification and results which can be derived after 61 years after the issuance of this declaration. Attendees requested countries and nations to adopt, disseminate, read and demonstrate the declaration particularly within schools besides other educational institutions in addition to the importance of recognizing dignity which is originated in human being and their equal rights based on freedom, justice and peace in the world.

**Ramallah/ Thursday 10/12/2009**

Human Right and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” implemented a crowded sit down on the occasion of “International Declaration for Human Rights and International Declaration for Human Rights’ Defenders” included participants from the West Bank and areas of 1948 like academics, human rights and civil society organizations activists in addition to university students. Within the event, participants raised a set of posters which emphasize the supreme values that Human Rights International Declaration points to in terms of enhancing and respecting life holiness as well as the absent human dignity which is violated daily on Palestinians. Audience also stressed that Palestinians are committed to the Declaration and they have been contributing effectively in drafting it, and they requested to stop all forms of discrimination against the Palestinian people. They also requested the significance to remove the siege over Palestinians, to apply the recommendations of Goldston report and to impose penalties on Israel, to stop the infringement upon Palestinians’ rights and dignity. In addition, they stressed the essence for applying the principle of Human Rights International Declaration, and this initiative represents a message from civilians to stop Israeli continuous violations against Palestinians’ rights since 1948.

**Salfit/ Saturday 14/12/2009**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop about “political participation of youth” in Deir Istya village in Salfit. The workshop aimed at preparing youth to conduct a meeting with the decision-maker and it included a clarification for the relationship between the citizen and state as well as resulted rights and duties, tackling the characteristics of good citizens and practical raising for youth political participation

and explaining the concepts for each stage then practical applying for political participation stages for many issues by participants. Youth also provided a set of recommendations to conduct meetings with decision-makers.

#### **Tubas/Monday 14/12/2009**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop regarding “**the foreign policy of the European Union**” in Tubas. The workshop tackled the influence of the EU foreign policy on the Palestinian issue due to its strong funding to the Palestinian Authority, the role of EU in supporting the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state, what should Palestinians do in order to benefit from the European political and economic support and strategies that should be followed in relation to that. Participants recommended the importance to set developmental plans in the economic and political regards, the long-term strong planning to invest in the Palestinian qualifications, they also requested to conduct other awareness meetings regarding the EU foreign policy besides, they pointed that they demand awareness related to techniques of lobbying and advocacy, negotiations and dialogue to contribute to the Palestinian issue and accomplishing an independent Palestinian state.

#### **Jerusalem/Tuesday 15/12/2009**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop about “**the importance of dialogue in enhancing the culture of tolerance and accepting the other**” in Beit Anan village in Jerusalem. the workshop tackled the concept of dialogue, tolerance and its mechanisms , besides explaining that Islam understands other religions instead of rejecting it since the language of dialogue and tolerance is used on a daily bases and this language should be the prevailing within community. Attendees pointed to the significance of this meeting and asked to conduct similar meetings by clergymen in order to enhance the culture of dialogue and tolerance, workshops for raising awareness about the role of woman and family education in promoting the culture of tolerance and accepting the other. Besides the importance to enroot the principle of dialogue within our community and launching a campaign aims to bring together the three religions to burden ethical responsibility in crises.

#### **Hebron/ Thursday 17/12/2009**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop regarding “**the role of youth in making societal change**” in Soureef town in Hebron. The workshop tackled the concept of youth considering it as an efficient category in building communities and the process of change which leads to creating a new status differs from the usual one. Attendees recommended the significance to enhance the spirit of initiatives within youth launching competitive energies for creation and innovation by emotional motives and encouraging awards. And the significance to develop creative energies and talents in youth within scientific, practical and artistic fields, adopt them and provide them a chance to give, create and develop, besides the significance to accompany youth by social actors and organizations to empower them to chose and plan for their future, the work to increase involvement in youth programs and its guiding programs in addition to activate youth and support their initiatives.

#### **2009Tulkarm/Saturday 19/12/2009**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop about “**the role of Palestine’s Christians as a link between the west and east**” in Kfur Jammal village in Tulkarm. The workshop handled the special relationship between Palestine’s Muslims and Christians which is based on respecting the other, the role of the Palestinian Christians in defending the Palestinian issue and their sacrifices for liberation, the importance of Palestine for the west since it is the core of the divine religions and the role that they can play to get the western support for the Palestinian issue. They requested the importance to conduct meetings which join Muslims and Christians so as to agree on a joint mechanism to deal with the west, and they stressed that Christians represent a part of the social-cultural, ethnic and political structure of Palestine besides, they emphasized the role of Palestine’s Christians to combine between the west and the east because of their mutual origins which facilitate conversation and exchange.

#### **Implementing 12 work groups about promoting rule of law**

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” in collaboration with **DCAF center** conducted a set of events within the project of “Promoting Rule of Law within the Palestinian Authority Areas” in the governorates of Jenin, Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah. The events included several meetings with governors in the targeted governorates to explain the project as well as its objectives and separate work groups which were conducted with civil society organizations’ representatives, workers in security sector, women organizations’ representatives, media figures and tribes’ representatives.

These groups aim at opening links for dialogue between security sector and civil society in order to enhance the relationship between the citizens and security officer as well as mutual understanding and to upgrade the level of services provided to citizens.

#### **Implementing 15 seminars regarding rule of law**

15 seminars were implemented in Qalqilya governorate within the project of “**youth for rule of law**” in which a group of the participating youth managed the seminars regarding the importance of enhancing rule of law, identifying courts, its works sections and progress achieved within judiciary system and problems which face citizens. The seminars contributed obviously to breaking fear inside youth and promotion of leadership characteristics. Participants emphasized the substance of arranging awareness activities about rule of law targeting school in order to enhance the concept of rule of law within the new generation besides the substance of developing mechanisms of notification in courts.

## SHAMS participations in activities of other organizations

#	Activity's venue	Activity	Inviting organization	Date & day
1	Best Eastern Hotel/ Ramallah	Coalition's conference	national Coalition against death penalty	Wednesday 16/12/2009
2	Palestinian Red Crescent Society/ Ramallah	Gaza : the human	SAWA all women are together today and tomorrow	Wednesday 16/12/2009

## Media activities

#	Activity	Media institution	meeting's venue	Date & day
1	A meeting about the events for International Declaration of Human Rights	Maan radio network	Ramallah	Monday 9/2/2009
2	a meeting about the anniversary of International Declaration of Human Rights	Palestine TV	Ramallah	Tuesday 10/12/2009
3	On the anniversary of International Declaration of Human Rights	Alquds educational TV	Ramallah	Tuesday 10/12/2009
4	Switzerland's decision regarding the dissemination of a questionnaire about forbidding building of minarets and the position of International Declaration towards freedom of religions.	Farah TV	Jenin	Thursday 12/12/2009
5	Human rights' defenders within the Palestinian territories	Nablus TV	Nablus	Monday 9/2/2009

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