



December monthly newsletter 2011

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Nablus 7/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop in Sharia faculty in An-najah National University regarding the role of media in promoting and disseminating the culture of human rights, within activities of the project of “promoting and disseminating the concepts of human rights and good governance for Sharia students within Palestinian universities” which is supported and funded by Foundation For Future, and it was attended by members of educational staff in the faculty besides Sharia students. Ibrahim Alabed from SHAMS center initiated the workshop by identifying the center as well as the project’s objectives. Activist Mu’een Kou’a emphasized that human rights as a concept and term within its modern frame is considered as an instrument for Western invasion upon Arabic and Islamic nation, and as a kind of political extortion for its systems and peoples so as to accomplish the west interests, values and perspectives. Therefore, human rights were and are still a strange western culture which aims to affect independence and sovereignty in addition to breach religion, values and traditions.

He added that a new important function for mass media was inserted as the guardian and protector of observing the activities of countries, organizations and individuals’ authorities, and it had roles in preserving the existence of democracies and its success in countries which accomplished progress in this regard through giving voice to the voiceless, securing that the majority doesn’t dominate over minority, spotting light on human rights and freedoms violations, getting victory for victims, disclosing perpetrators (countries, groups or individuals). And it should be mentioned again that there is a deep connection between media and human rights as well as the considerable role of media in enhancing human rights and raising awareness about it.

At the end of the workshop, participants recommended the significance to set a national strategy to educate human rights to be comprehensive in terms of connection with the community’s sectors, to be open for participation in terms of the involvement for linked sectors, to be efficient in terms of education curricula and to be sustainable in the long-term. In addition to the significance to reflect this strategy within national action plans, to design effective, comprehensive and systemized mechanisms to revise educating human rights and to correct it so as to upgrade programs and advance it toward a high level of professionalism, to deal with weakness or defect and to employ public and official media to disseminate the concepts of human rights, to educate media representatives about human rights’ issues and concepts as well as the connection between its political, civic, economic, social and cultural fields through arranging joint training courses and workshops to benefit from the advanced technique in designing

media or cultural materials in order to disseminate the culture of human rights and the significance to create channels for direct dialogue between human rights activists, decision-makers and policy group within media and cultural institutions or entities in order to support the existence of human rights culture.



Hebron 12/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop in Sharia faculty in Hebron University titled as “religion and state”. The lecturer Dr. Ja’afar Dassa initiated his speech by identifying religion and what it intends, and he spoke about religion in Quran’s concept, and that religion exists before, with and after the state. Dr. Dassa started by giving more than one definition to the state, and he defined it within the Islamic concept in terms of its objectives, limits, scope of its authorities and elements which include the people, the land, government and political unity, then he explained in details the relationship between the state and religion besides how researcher discussed within the political affair the relationships between them. He added that some countries separated between religion while others makes the religions the state itself, and originally there should be a relationship between them which makes religion represents the cultural essence for the community. Participants as well provided examples on each kind and they also discussed the concept of civil country and religion country and the definition of Islam country which doesn’t signify theocrat state, and the workshop was concluded by defining the meaning of Islam country which is a civic country but with the Islamic reference and based on public pledge, Shura and ruler’s consultation to the nation.



Birzeit University 13/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” conducted a workshop titled as “**youth role in promoting the concepts and principles of rule of law**” at Birzeit university. The lecturer Ghandi Rube’e a lawyer and activist within democracy and human rights initiated the workshop by raising examples on the rule of law, and he mentioned that if there is a gap between individuals and rule of law then they will fell a state of alienation, and if we were able to fill this gap they will freedom. He also discussed the subject with the attendees of students who recommended that there should be awareness inside individuals to change behaviors and to disclose violations against rule of law, they added that there should be also monitoring by organizations on citizens’ performance and applying and to have accountability when breaching rule of law.



Hebron 14/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop in Hebron university titled as “**good governance**”. Dr. Waleed Dassa started his speech by mentioning that ruler’s responsibility is represented in accomplishing people’s wishes, reducing differences between people and precluding the wealth inflation within categories of officials. Good governance includes providing security and tranquility, spreading justice between people, fighting injustice, supplying with job opportunities for citizens and helping the weak and poor people even if they are not Muslims but part of the Islamic country. Participants recommended conducting training courses in the field of human rights, issuing more brochures that promote human rights, implementing media campaigns in order to raise awareness about human rights having blogs to express opinions freely and conducting awareness meetings for identifying Palestinian citizens of their rights.



Jenin 17/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” in collaboration with law faculty in the Arab American University conducted two workshops, the first titled as “**separation of powers within democratic systems**” and the second “**tribes’ role in settling criminal disputes**” attended by a group of law students in the faculty. At the beginning of the first workshop the Dean of law faculty in the university Dr. Ahmad Dabak within his speech emphasized the importance of the faculty’s students’ participation in the extra-curricular activities which help to develop the personality of law students who work to serve their community before graduating. He also pointed the university interest in cooperation and partnership with several organizations and legal centers in order to educate students and raise the awareness of the local community. From his sides Dr. Omar Rahhal the director of “SHAMS” center talked about the program the center implements to enhance the concepts of human rights and rule of law within Palestinian universities’ students, and he paid attribute to the role of the university in societal awareness as well as the graduation of groups of educated and specialized people who will contribute to building the Palestinian state.

Within the workshop, Dr. Dabak defined the three powers which constitute the general powers and clarified four models of government’s systems which differ with the principle of separation of powers (presidential, parliamentary, mixed and collective) and emphasized the significance of Palestinian Basic Law which represents the constitution that organizes the relationship between the three powers (legislative, executive and judicial). Dr. Dabak also stressed that article 2 of the law didn’t specify how people can practice its authority either by elections or others, and he explained that law signify the supreme expression of the people’s willingness and it should be respected by all individuals in addition, he clarified the essence of “separation of powers” principle in building the state of law, preventing the misuse of authority and defending public rights and freedoms and he confirmed that separation doesn’t mean having limits between the three powers but forming an integrated system.

Within the second workshop, the lecturer in law faculty Dr. Ghassan Ilyan reviewed the conditions of reconciliation in the law of Palestinian criminal trials and emphasized the tribes’ role in resolving criminal and societal disputes and its influence on building the social relationships, preventing corruption, separation, disagreement and problems, he also pointed that this would have a big influence on public life, social safety and solidarity of families. At the end of each workshop diverse dialogues and discussions about the Palestinian case were made in light of the status quo of the Palestinian

Authority.

Nablus 19/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop titled s “International Bill of Human Rights” at An-najah National University. The lecturer Jihad Harb initiated his speech about human rights which are the rights enjoyed by individuals according to their human dignity, include individual and collective rights specified with constitutions and International Law. at the end he assured the fundamental principles for human rights which include: human rights are international, human rights are indivisible, inability to separate between civic, political, economic and social rights, the principle of fighting against discrimination, difference within reality may justify the dissimilarity in law, the possibility of enjoying private rights by some groups, human rights and sovereignty of the state. Participants recommended setting programs in accordance with media discourse for Sharia students and upgrading the students’ capacities for better understanding of human rights.

Hebron 27/12/2011

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” in collaboration with the legal clinic of Hebron university conducted a legal conference regarding public and private rights and freedoms in which Sharia students participated. Within the conference Dr. Mutaz Qfeshah the professor of International Law in the university talked about human rights within international law and Dr. Loai Ghazawy professor of jurisprudence and law talked about human rights between positive laws and religious laws in addition to Dr. Omar Rahhal from SHAMS center who talked about the situation of human rights in Palestine in reference based on Palestinian Basic Law. Within the activities of the project “promoting human rights and good governance within Palestinian universities” which is funded by Foundation For Future and it included attendees from educational staff in addition to the faculty’s students, and the conference was managed by Dr. Rashad Twam the professor of political science who welcomed the attendees. At the end of the conference, participants recommended the importance to conduct researches to compare between Islamic jurisprudence and human rights, raising awareness and education regarding these subjects, calling civil society organizations to develop its work to contribute to disseminating human rights among the diverse social sectors through using all appropriate means including modern techniques, setting and upgrading training programs about human rights, having collaboration between mass media and civil society organizations working in the field of human rights and producing materials which contribute to disseminating the culture of human rights. As well as the importance of ending human rights’ violations, requesting political parties to declare its commitment to human rights international conventions, working to highlight and enhance human rights contexts within political programs and field practices and paying more attention to human rights culture within the programs of preparing young staff.



SHAMS press releases in newspapers

#	Title	Newspaper	Page	Day	Date
1	On the occasion of International Day for Volunteers SHAMS center organizes a voluntary day in Palestine	Alayyam	10	Sunday	4/12/2011
2	On the occasion of International Day for Volunteers SHAMS center claims to support youth involvement within political life and recovering the consideration to voluntary work	Alquds	13	Monday	5/12/2011
3	SHAMS center calls for supporting youth involvement within political life	Maan	Internet	Sunday	4/12/2011
4	On the occasion of International Day for Human Rights Defenders SHAMS center emphasizes the Palestinian people's right to independence and self-determination	Alhayat	6	Saturday	10/12/2011
5	On the occasion of International Day for Human Rights SHAMS center emphasizes the Palestinian people's right to independence and self-determination	Alquds	17	Saturday	10/12/2011
6	An advertisement to recruit a female lawyer	Alquds	16	Tuesday	13/12/2011
7	An advertisement to recruit a female lawyer	Alquds	17	Monday	12/12/2011
8	An advertisement to recruit a female lawyer	Alayyam	7	Monday	12/12/2011
9	Qalqilya/ SHAMS center conducts a workshop regarding the freedom of opinion, expressions and journalism	Maan	Internet	Monday	19/12/2011
10			11	Monday	3/1/2011
11			8	Monday	3/1/2011
12			11	Tuesday	4/1/2011
13			21	Sunday	9/1/2011
14			8	Monday	16/1/2011
15			21	Monday	16/1/2011

SHAMS center media participation

#	Subject	Inviting organization	Place	Day	Date
1	About voluntary work	Palestine radio	Via telephone	Monday	5/12/2011
2	Youth and voluntary work	Palestine radio	Via telephone	Tuesday	6/12/2011
3	International Day for Human Rights	Ajyal radio	Via telephone	Saturday	10/12/2011
4	About International Day for Human Rights	Nisa'a FM radio	Via telephone	Wednesday	14/12/2011

SHAMS participations with other organizations

#	Subject	Inviting organization	Place	Day	Date
1	Legal researches competition	Ministry of Justice	Best Eastern Hotel	Wednesday	7/12/2011
2	International Day for Transparency	AMAN	Best Eastern Hotel	Wednesday	7/12/2011
3	Meeting of the preparatory committee of Palestinian Youth Conference	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Wednesday	7/12/2011
4	International Day for Human Rights	NDC center	Leaders Hall	Thursday	8/12/2011
5	Code of conducting for using power and fire weapons by the enrollers of Palestinian security forces	Independent Commission for Human Rights	ICHR venue	Wednesday	14/12/2011
6	Arabic revolutions and human rights	AMMAN Center for Studies and Human Rights	Cairo	Sunday/Monday Tuesday	11-13/12/2011

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