



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



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In the framework of its endeavors which aim at promoting and disseminating the culture of human rights within youth, **SHAMS** center concluded a training course within the project of “**promoting the concepts of human right and rule of law for university students**”. the course was initiated by Mayada Zedany from SHAMS center who provided a brief description about the center’s work as well as activities, and she clarified that the training course is within the project of “promoting and disseminating the concepts of human rights and rule of law” funded and supported by UNDP. She added that this training course aims at offering training opportunities for university students in order to supply them with skills and knowledge, to enhance cooperation between legal clinics in universities, exchanging experiences, beginning youth dialogues about rule of law, good governance and human rights, raising legal awareness among young people, initiating a discussion about developing the legal construction for legislations besides providing legal consultations for citizens by law students.

From his sides, the trainer Iyad Shtayeh provided and discussed the training content and timeframe with participants, he also hoped that this course will add more information and skills for trainees to enable them to identify human rights issues more efficiently, while the UNDP representative Mr. Jihad Shomali emphasized the importance to acknowledge the culture of human rights for societal categories.

The training course tackles a set of subjects in terms of the historical development for International Human Law, the concept of rule of law, UN activities concerning human rights, the role of media in disseminating and promoting the concepts of human rights and rule of law, human rights within International Bill, documenting and monitoring human rights, mechanisms of national and international complaints, an introduction about good governance, the societal responsibility of legal clinics toward local community, techniques for writing reports and investigations in addition to rights and freedoms in Palestine.



From his side, Mr. Sha'awan Jabareen director of Alhaqq organization talked about the historical development for International Human Law clarifying that International Human Law is a branch of the International Law with human deep roots in the conscience of humanity. He added that in despite the fact that humanity witnessed several wars but it was obligatory during the war's exceptional circumstances to organize regulations which arrange the human behavior, organize war's regulations and call for peace and security. Accordingly, we find that the majority of old human civilizations included regulations which organize war, offer additional chances for reconciliation and regulate detainees' treatment, and these regulations or behaviors resulted from human heritage and old civilizations represents role models that outlined the correct frames which govern fighters' behaviors and forced the base of International Human Law.

He added that international human law in its modern and current image represents an expression for human values and principles which call for rejecting war, honoring humans and preserving their lives, holy places and spreading peace within its general framework impose commitment on the member countries by virtue of the conventions, and it also represent acceptable and agreed values by the international community, and it outline public rules asking the fighting countries to respect these rules and quest to include these regulation and rules within its national legislations to be part of its internal law. so, it will be obligatory on the national judge to apply it when issuing sentences, and without this international human law will be empty of its contents while objectives and purposes will be lost.



Randa Seniora talked about the concept of rule of law and UN activities relating to rule of law, she also mentioned that the principle of applying rule of law in its simple meaning signifies that all individuals are equal before law regardless of their authorities or positions. This is accomplished by setting general legal structures, and that legal equality signifies that people with similar legal positions get the same rights and should perform the same responsibilities.

She added that the absence of rule of law leads to dominance, tyranny, chaos and lack of feeling responsibility within community, deteriorating public morals, absence of transparency and accountability and violating citizens rights, while the principle of law leads to respecting citizens' different rights, securing individuals' right to be involved in decision-making via practicing freedom of expression, doctrine, political belonging, elections, candidacy, work and movement, and this will result in raising the sense of responsibility, interaction between citizens and their community's interests and defending these interests. In order to accomplish rule of law the constitution should restrain the state's authority and set necessary guarantees for subjecting it to constitution or law and providing the basic conditions for a community based on law.

The rule of law principle implies the existence of a strong government which is capable to impose system, respect law and work to find suitable circumstances for individuals' luxury and community's protection so, a balance should be created between freedom of willingness and defending individuals' rights taking into account the rule of law.



From his side, the media representative Majid Arouri spoke about the role of media in disseminating and promoting the culture of human rights and rule of law, and that free independent media can play a central pivotal role in encouraging and supporting efforts for motivating the political, economic, cultural and social reform besides spreading the values of good governance, democracy and human rights, while the chances of building free media require the availability of a political environment based on freedom of expression, opinion and diversity, the availability of legal and democratic frameworks to secure the independence for organizations and media platforms and offering media representatives the right to practice their role without previous control, political, security and financial stresses and without societal pressure and which guarantee the right to access information, data and documents for media .

He also demonstrated that activating media role is done by the comprehensive revision for media legislations and releasing it from uncontrolled texts and expressions which allow forbidding the freedom of deliberating ideas, opinions and information besides putting limits between the several crimes, banning the preventive detention within crimes related to freedom of opinion as well as the freedom of issuing newspapers and right to own it without restrictions, cancelling all forms of previous control of newspapers and securing journalists' right to access information sources.

These procedures will lead to completing mechanisms of transparency and accountability either relating to freedom of opinion and media or freedom of opinion which are restricted by a set of penal texts and wrong punishments which also hinder free discussion for policies.



The trainer Asmahan from her side mentioned that human rights are those basic indispensable standards for people to live with dignity as humans, and that human rights are attributed to specific features. Human rights are originated inside each individual and the same for everybody regardless of ethnicity, sex, religion, political belonging, opinion and social or national origin and all individuals are born free and equal in dignity and rights. As well, human rights are international and no one is allowed to deprive the others from human rights even if laws of his/her country don't recognize these rights. So, in order for people to live with dignity they have the right to enjoy freedom and security with appropriate levels as human rights are indivisible.

She also clarified that rights are divided into civil and political rights (also called the first generation of rights" and linked with freedoms including: right to life, right to freedom, right to security, not subjecting to torture, getting rid of slavery, political participation, freedom of opinion, expression, conscience and religion, freedom of joining societies and assembly. As well, social and economic rights (also called the second generation of rights" connected with security including: work, education, good level of living, food, place and health care. Besides environmental, cultural and developmental rights (also called the third generation of rights) including right to live in a clean preserved environment including right to economic, political and cultural development.



As well, lawyer Mu'een Barghothi mentioned that monitoring and documenting human rights as well as national and international complaints' mechanisms requires huge efforts and techniques. Then he explained the difference between monitoring and documentation as monitoring indicates collecting information, verifying it and recording it immediately so as to document a certain case, while documentation signifies the recorded information resulted from monitoring, and both monitoring and documentations are parts of control conducted by specialized governmental, civil and international organizations in order to record events and accidents accurately regarding infringement upon human rights.

He demonstrated that monitoring and documentation related to human rights aim at enhancing the state's responsibility in protecting human rights, providing urgent support to victims, securing individual's rights in fair trial against these violations, precluding accusations in the future and controlling the commitment of the states to international conventions and human rights law. He emphasized that documenting human rights violations represented by issuing appropriate reports, newsletters, statements, organizing lobbying and advocacy campaigns and it is a legal support when litigating.

He added that the most noticeable applications to these mechanisms and the role it plays regarding the promotion of human rights and basic freedoms as well as setting necessary guarantees to secure enjoying it, and countries in general working on texts in its national constitutions or basic laws or main laws which emphasize the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As well he explained that national non-governmental mechanisms play an important role in the field of enhancing human rights and securing its respect in the national level according to many countries besides, he explained reporting and complaints as mechanisms for protecting human rights in the international level, also he mentioned that reporting basically aims at facilitating supervision over the state's performance and its commitments by virtue of UN Charter.



The rights' activist Fatin Bulifah said spoke about the societal responsibility of legal clinics toward national community and explained that legal clinics represent a model of advancing the legal education adopted by law schools at present which is called clinical legal education. Legal clinics have a dual objective, from one hand it embodies an educational instrument for teaching law through practicing it in its actual environment, and from the other hand it is an educational mechanism to disseminate culture and legal knowledge in the community. As well, the educational role for the legal clinic isn't represented just in the legal training that students apply what they learn practically but also legal comments by which students transform their actual experience to others who work in law or interested people aiming at identifying law problems and study it based on a scientific approach.

She added that subjects of legal clinic isn't specified fixed but stated according to community's priorities and interests and tackle human rights as well as basic freedoms the social, economic and political ones, while in this regard, the role of clinical legal education is to merge flexibly and easily between original law basics and developments of its branches and trends. Hence, the legal clinic played a pivotal role and a societal turning point within many countries especially Latin America countries either in the level of legal education or the legal culture of the community which lead to rule of law.

She also clarified that the clinic aims at providing consultations to poor who are in need to the service, offering free consultations to the poor who had cases in courts and conducting legal awareness workshops concerning human rights and law in general. She demonstrated that legal clinic has three dimensions representing a dream to accomplish justice for categories with less luck in the community, but with the development of the idea it had an academic dimension with academic, social and occupational feasibility since it is a way of legal education and teaching in which it focuses on the occupational side and it is a manner of coordination and networking for training and giving a space for training after graduation or even job opportunities. She added that main obstacles which hinder the legal clinics' work include individuals' incapacity to provide sufficient support, absence of cooperation by lawyers to work voluntarily and assist student and the huge size of the targeted group which makes providing consultations difficult besides preventing students to repeal or fear from overcoming the frame of traditions or the possibility to have an opposition by lawyers who have private offices and media bashfulness relating to some sensitive areas and women's rejection to go to these clinics.



While Isam Arouri director of Jerusalem Center for legal Ads and Human Rights tackled the issue of rights and freedoms in Palestine, and mentioned that communities within history witnessed unlimited problems and crises which had left negative impact on the internal relationships and exposed citizens' rights and freedoms to danger and added a kind of chaos and confusion to its external movement.

This historical fact is applied to the Palestinian scene to a large extent since it suffers from dangerous political, societal, economic, cultural and intellectual confusions in addition to the outbreak of extremism and belligerency culture, violence logic, separation's ideology and elimination's spirit.

When the logic of revenge, excessiveness, hatred and violation is spread against the spirit of justice, tolerance, love and personal relations between the Palestinian separation's parties, then neglecting the other, collective or individual revenge and human rights' violations became justified and acceptable. regarding human rights generally and public freedoms particularly, the internal violations against Palestinian human rights harmed citizens' political, civic, social, economic and cultural rights in addition to affect their public freedoms.

He also tackled the subject of citizenship which signifies carrying out duties and enjoying rights, and said that citizenship is democracy's base, and in light of a democratic system which depend on equal rights and duties, fairness between the community's individuals represent the essence of a developed community since it preserves human dignity and preclude discrimination between citizens and secure equivalent opportunities between all the people regardless of the economic level, political belonging, or tribal belonging or the region.



The journalist Husam Izz-din handled the mechanism of reporting and investigation explaining the importance for the journalist at the beginning to recognize the problem he will follow up, and stressing the substance to access the truth and provide it to the public opinion without misrepresentation under national slogans and banner. He added that female or male journalist's task is to provide what has been reached by the public opinion, while the recipient is the one who judge and he explained that after specifying the problem it is important to state hypotheses, and this is similar to academic research with more flexibility, after that making preliminarily work so as to make sure of the information either right or wrong and then journalist decides what will he do whether to publish it or not since the most important thing is the public opinion.

He also clarified that after specifying information, searching and accessing results then verifying hypotheses comes the stage of writing the report and achieved results, and hence the difference is between press and political report and there should be an element of suspense starting from the most important point to the less important one.

In addition, he tackled the subject of the internal conflict the journalist passed through which is linked with law and occupation's ethics as well as the a role of the journalist him/herself, he also viewed several examples during his work and explaining obstacles and difficulties which may face the journalist when he/she prepares a report including legal, ethical, occupational and social obstacle besides control of media.

SHAMS press release in newspapers

#	Title	Newspaper	Page	Day	Date
1	A conference in Hebron university about public and private rights and freedoms	Alquds	11	Sunday	1/1/2012
2	Arab American university organizes two workshops about separation of powers and tribal conciliation	Maan	Internet	Sunday	1/1/2012
3	The governor of Jenin discusses with DCAF and SHAMS centers ways to develop work in the file of community safety	Alhayat	6	Friday	27/1/2012
4	The governor of Jenin discusses with DCAF and SHAMS centers ways to develop work in the file of community safety	Alquds	4	Friday	27/1/2012
5	Ramallah: SHAMS center commences to a training course about human rights and good governance	Alayyam	5	Saturday	28/1/2012
6	Ramallah: SHAMS center commences to a training course about human rights, good governance and rule of law	Alquds	11	Friday	27/1/2012
7	The governor of Jenin discusses with DCAF and SHAMS centers the promotion of community safety's file	Wafa	Internet	Thursday	26/1/2012

8	SHAMS center conducts a training course about	Maan	Internet	Friday	28/1/2012
9	Jenin: discussion about ways to enhance human rights and rule of law	Maan	Internet	Thursday	26/1/2012
10	Dr. Ghannam participates in a workshop conducted by SHAMS center to promote human rights and rule of law	Alquds	40	Sunday	29/1/2012
11	Jenin: discussing ways to reinforce community safety	Alayyam	6	Friday	27/1/2012
12	SHAMS center commences to a training course about human rights and rule of law	Alhayat	9	Saturday	28/1/2012
13	Dr. Ghannam participates in a workshop conducted by SHAMS center to promote human rights and rule of law	Alhayat	8	Sunday	29/1/2012

**SHAMS media participations
TV & Radio interviews**

#	Subject	Place	Inviting organization	Day	Date
1	Development's role of youth organizations	Via telephone	Palestine radio	Sunday	22/1/2012
2	About the training course of human rights and good governance	Rocky hotel	Maan	Saturday	28/1/2012
3	About the training course of human rights and good governance	Rocky hotel	Palestine TV	Saturday	28/1/2012
4	About the training course of human rights and good governance	Via telephone	Ajyal radio	Sunday	29/1/2012

Shams participations with other organizations

#	Subject	Place	Inviting organization	Day	Date
1	Honoring participating organization within youth second conference	Retno hotel	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Thursday	19/2/2012
2	Societal reconciliation	Red Crescent Society	Arabic Thought Forum	Tuesday	31/1/2012

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