

Newsletter of March 2010

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Nablus- Monday 8/3/2010

SHAMS center held a workshop in Nablus city under title "**what women rights?**" on the occasion of the 8th of March (**International Women's Day**).

The workshop addressed the struggles of women and their most important achievements in fields of rights and laws.

Participants from their side emphasized that Palestinian women can't exercise their freedoms and rights like other women around the world as long as occupation remains.

They demanded the need to achieve justice for women and to positively deal with their issues through the enactment of laws to ensure women obtain their natural rights and can effectively participate in all aspects of life.

In addition, participants call upon the International Feminist Movement to devote this year exclusively for Palestinian women through specifying some events and activities aim to advocate for Palestinian women's rights and to carry the banner of defending their rights in the face of what consistently perpetrated against them of all forms of humiliation and degrading treatment.



Tulkarm- Wednesday 10/3/2010

SHAMS center held a workshop in Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm governorate about "**role of media in activating mechanisms of good governance**".

The workshop discussed the concept of good governance and its role in managing public life and the society affairs and in directing its resources, and its economic and social development.

The workshop also addressed the role that media can play in the activation of good governance mechanisms, where this point has opened debate about the situation of the Palestinian media and remedies required to enable it assumes its natural and effective role on the basis of resorting to the laws and regulations in place that clearly define its role in providing accurate and reliable information and facts to the public as it is considered a tool to serve the citizens and not for deluding and deceiving them.

For this purpose, participants demanded the need to open discussion between journalists and citizens about role of media in activating good governance mechanisms where participants suggested the establishment of a higher media council comprises members from human rights and national entities and academic institutions.



Jenin- Saturday 13/3/2010

The center of "SHAMS" has held a workshop in Arab American University in Jenin governorate about "**prohibition of torture in international humanitarian law**".

The workshop dealt with the reality of torture in international humanitarian law and other international covenants that banned all kinds of torture and humiliating and degrading treatments that comprise abjection and cruel penalties as stated in the universal declaration of human rights in 1948 and the first and second **Geneva Conventions**.

Participants recommended the need to respect human kind and his dignity and also they called for the necessity to wok on the separation of powers and ensure the non-interference among them to ensure the judicial independence.

Participants also called for the need to pursue persons who commit acts of torture and bring them to justice in parallel with educating citizens about their rights and guide them where to resort in



case their rights are abused and violated.



Ramallah- Sunday 21/3/2010

"SHAMS" center has held a workshop in the Modern College premises in Ramallah city about "**Government policies towards supporting and empowering women**".

The workshop addressed the role of Women's Affairs Ministry in promoting the status of women, in addition to achievements of women at the level of changing the laws and the social attitudes and prevailing perception about them.

The workshop also addressed the relevant international and local agreements that the government has signed regarding empowering of women and need to implement and apply these agreements. Participants emphasized that women don't only need change of laws but also need to work on changing the society culture and attitudes that deals inferiorly with women and applies discrimination in favor of men.

Form their side, participants have argued that despite the current situation of women, there are some positive and real indicators for the development of women's role in the society, as there are women ministers, judges and governors , in addition to many other leading positions. Participants urged the government to work on enactment of equitable laws and to promote the role of women in all aspects of life.



Salfeet- Thursday 25/3/2010

"SHAMS" center held a workshop in Salfeet city about "**role of CSO's in promoting concepts of good governance**".

The workshop addressed concepts and principles of Good Governance and the important role it plays in strengthening the participation of all society segments, institutions and parties in the guidance and management of the public life.

The workshop has particularly addressed the different aspects of Good Governance (economic, social, administrative, and political aspects) and the effective role that **civil society organizations** can play in strengthening and promoting concept and principles of GG.

Participants recommended the need to create the enabling environment for their participation to identify a calibrated sound system for good governance that applies right criteria and best practices that ensure equity and justice especially for marginalized and vulnerable segments in the society.

Participants also recommended the need to conduct educational and awareness sessions for citizen to make them familiar with methods and mechanisms required to create a system of good governance that depends on a large margin of democracy and justice.

Finally, they demanded action on the independence of civil society and the effectiveness of its role in public life and to provide sound government management of natural and human resources through the management of public funds in ways that achieve positive general benefit for all segments of society.



Jerusalem- Thursday 25/3/2010

"SHAMS" center held a workshop in Bethany city about **"Importance of dialogue in promoting culture of tolerance and accepting one another"**.

Discussions were focused on concept of dialogue and tolerance and its mechanisms, emphasizing on language of dialogue and tolerance as a humanity language, considering each individual in the society as the "another" where language of dialogue must prevail among different society members and segments.

Participants noted the importance of this workshop and call for conducting more similar workshops with participation of religious men (preachers) to expand efforts in promoting for culture of tolerance, and they also recommended conducting awareness workshops on the role of family and social upbringing in the dissemination of culture of dialogue and concept of tolerance and accepting one another.



Training course- Bir Zeit University

The center continued its training session on **"Dialogue and outreach"** at Bir Zeit university aiming at promoting the cultural dialogue and communication between the different categories of the Palestinian people and to establish nucleus of messengers of new ideas and cultures.

The training program extends over two months period, where competent trainers deliver selected training material on dialogue and tolerance issues, in addition to issues of youth societal role, citizenship, cultural specificity, universality of human rights, the state and the religion, criticism of the Arab political discourse directed to the west, Palestinian political culture, Europe and Palestine political relations and role of civil society in crisis management.



Hebron- Saturday 27/3/2010

"SHAMS" center has conducted a workshop in Hebron city about **"role of youth in disseminating culture of tolerance"**.

The workshop addressed the definition of the tolerance concept and defines roles of this concept in strengthening and promoting world's peace and stability.

Also the workshop highlights the role of religions and states in disseminating and promoting this culture, in addition to role of youth in sustaining efforts in this regard.

It was clarified during the workshop that "culture of tolerance" does not mean compromise and cowardice and can't be scaled by concept of strong and weak, but rather means accepting the other through a constructive dialogue and common understanding on debated issues.

Participants demanded the need to lead an initiative to promote the culture of tolerance and to include this concept in the school curriculum and to circulate this concept on the large bulk of the society in order to avoid misunderstanding and misconception.



**Activities of SHAMS center on the occasion of the 8th of March
"Women's International Day"**

Participation of "SHAMS" center in other Agencies' activities and events

No.	Hosting agency	Venue	Activity Title	Day	Date
1.	Palestinian Youth Network	Palestinian Youth Network	Evaluation of the network's activities	Thursday	4/3/2010
2.	JOHOUD	Palestinian Youth Network	Observation on the election process of JOHOUD assembly	Saturday	13/3/2010
3.	ALDARB	Red Crescent Hall	Training on proposal writing	Saturday	13/3/2010
4.	NDC	Red Crescent Hall	Core Funding	Monday	15/3/2010
5.	The Palestinian Institute for the politicians and strategies	Manna' Hotel	Negotiation and regional peace	Monday	15/3/2010
6.	NASEEJ	Red Crescent Hall	Meeting about the transitional phase of NASEEJ program	Monday	15/3/2010

The Center's news in local newspapers

No.	Article title	News Paper	Page No.	Date
1.	"SHAMS" center organize a visit for inmates of Jenin Rehabilitation and reform center	Al Ayyam	17	Wednesday 10/3/2010
2.	Workshop in Nor Shams refugee camp on Good Governance and role of media	Al Quds	22	Friday 12/3/2010
3.	Tulkarm: demands to involve media means in efforts of combating corruption	Al Ayyam	13	Sunday 14/3/2010
4.	Calls for development of the Palestinian Legal structure to fit the international covenants	Al Haya	8	Wednesday 17/3/2010
5.	A workshop in Jenin on "prohibition of torture according to international conventions.	Al Quds	24	Wednesday 17/3/2010
6.	Calls for development of the Palestinian Legal structure to fit the international covenants that ban torture	Al Ayyam	12	Wednesday 17/3/2010
7.	Hebron: "SHAMS" center conducts a workshop in Soureef village on "Freedom of expression and opinion"	Al Ayyam	8	Sunday 21/3/2010
8.	A workshop on "Women's International Day" in the modern college	Al Quds	9	Thursday 25/3/2010

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