



**Newsletter of SHAMS for April 2010**

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**Qalqilya- Tuesday 6/4/2010**

SHAMS center has held a workshop in Qalqilya city on murder against women for what so called "**Family Honor**".

The workshop addressed this phenomenon in terms of size and gravity within the Palestinian society and its causes, and measures required to reduce this phenomenon.

Participants from their side emphasized on need to intensify efforts to raise awareness of the Palestinian society and to and need to exert more concerted efforts between all parties to work towards reducing the spread of this phenomenon, Participants also called for the need to provide protection for battered women.

**Tulkarm- Wednesday 7/4/2010**

SHAMS center held a workshop on the occasion of the "**World Health Day**" at the Palestine Polytechnic University "**PPU**" in Tulkarm city on the "**Stand of the International Agencies from the Grave Impact of the Israeli Chemical Factories on Palestinian Citizens' Health**".

The workshop was conducted in cooperation with PPU to highlight on dangers of the Israeli chemical factories' remnants on environment and public health and to discuss measures of putting an end to these risks.

Participants demanded for bringing this file to the Palestinian political level in order to set a plan to cope with dangers resulted from these factories in Tulkarm governorate.

**Ramallah- Wednesday 7/4/2010**

SHAMS center held a workshop at **Birzeit University** on "**Role of CSO's in Crisis Management**".

The workshop addressed the concept of crises and methods of crisis management, as there is a difference between managing the crisis itself and the anticipated role of CSO's in reducing the negative effects resulted from the crisis.

Participants in the workshop emphasized on the importance of unifying and coordinating efforts in order to overcome the crisis and create complementarities among all stakeholders, and they demanded need to create clear communication mechanisms between the different society segments in order to strengthen cooperation and integration.

### **Jenin- Saturday 10/4/2010**

**SHAMS center held a workshop in Jenin city on "Role of Media in Protecting and Monitoring State of Human Rights and Public Freedoms".**

The workshop addressed the importance of the different media means in raising awareness and educating citizens about their rights guaranteed by international related laws and covenants, and the need for the different media forums to play an active role in this regard.

Participants call for the activation of the media role in protecting and monitoring situation of human rights and they called for the need to build the capacity of the journalists in the field of human rights' protection and issues of public freedoms.

### **Ramallah- Sunday 11/4/2010**

**SHAMS center has held a workshop in Kufr Nea'ma village on "Role of the Social Upbringing in the Democratic Transformation Process".**

The workshop addressed the importance of the social upbringing in instilling the democratic concepts to lay the foundation for a democratic transformation process.

Participants demanded the need to work towards raising awareness of parents on modern methods of upbringing in order to create new generation believing in principles of democracy, in addition to need for developing the performance of the educational institutions and to provide the enabling environment for students to apprehend and understand principles of democracy.

### **Salfeet- Monday 12/4/2010**

**SHAMS center held a workshop in Salfeet city on "Importance of Community Participation in Promoting Principles of Good Governance".**

The workshop addressed the principles of GG and importance of the society participation that bolsters the maintenance of these principles and helps in the circulation of these principles on the different society segments and institutions, and pushes towards the performance development that can guarantee the commitment to these principles.

Participants asserted the need to work on strengthening the participation of all segments of society and its institutions including the political parties in managing and guiding the public life affairs, also participants recommended the need to create a state of transparency and accountability in the work of all sectors.

### **Nablus- Saturday 10/4/2010**

The center of **SHAMS** has held a workshop in Nablus city on the "**Youth Sector Strategy Plan: evaluative perspective**".

The workshop addressed the youth sector strategy plan which aims to create a mature new youth generation and to promote importance of youth participation in the development and building process.

The workshop also highlighted on the different references of this strategy such as the independence declaration, the Palestinian Basic Law and the reality faced by the Palestinian youth.

Issues related to situations of the youth organizations and their obstacles have been discussed by participants, where they stressed the importance of strengthening and promoting the belonging principle for the youth vanguards, and to restore and maintain volunteerism work among the young people.

### **Jerusalem- Sunday 11/4/2010**

**SHAMS** center held a workshop in Annata village on "**Israel Obligations according to the International Law**".

The workshop discussed the obligations of Israel as an occupying power under the articles of the International Law, which entails Israel to bear the full responsibility towards the civilian population in terms of protection of their lives and properties.

Participants recommended the International Community to shoulder its responsibility by practicing pressure on Israel as an occupying power to comply with articles of the International Law and to offer protection to Palestinian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Participants also urged the Arab Diplomacy to exert more efforts to drum up support and advocacy for the Palestinian cause and to condemn Israel in all international forums as an occupying power that does not respect and adhere to the context of the international law.

### **Hebron- Wednesday 14/4/2010**

**SHAMS** center held a workshop in Hebron city on "**the Political Systems: the Palestinian system as an example**".

The workshop addressed the different political systems and pros and cons for each, with special focus on the Palestinian Political System comprising its institutions and powers and responsibilities of each institution in addition to the overlapping of powers among these different institutions according to the Palestinian Basic Law.

Participants recommended the need to work on identifying more clearly the powers of authorities, specifically the prime minister and the president and to give a greater role for the judiciary in the adjudication of disputes as a sole party entitled in resolving disputes.



### Hebron- Saturday 17/4/2010

SHAMS center held a workshop in Hebron city on "**Importance of the Periodic Elections**".

The workshop addressed the need for conducting elections on a regular basis and need to enable citizens to assess the performance and achievements of the previous councils in managing their own affairs and to hold them accountable if necessary, in order to create a civil participation approach in managing public affairs, and to hold candidates responsible for their electoral programs and promises before their constituencies.

At the end, participants recommended to maintain regular elections on the basis of "people are the source of authority".



### Jenin- Saturday 17/4/2010

SHAMS center held a workshop in the Arab-American University in Jenin district on "**Legal Mechanisms for Implementing Goldstone Recommendations**".

The workshop started by giving an introduction about Goldstone report and the UN Security Council resolution and the legal procedures that should be followed in order to implement the recommendations of Goldstone report as a first step towards bringing war criminals before the International Court for Justice.

Participants emphasized on need for synergy among official and civil institutions in order to hold war criminals accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people.



### Ramallah- Sunday 18/4/2010

The center of "SHAMS" held a workshop in Bele'in village on "**Human Rights Education**"; the workshop addressed the need of promoting the culture of human rights in terms of concept and principles.

The workshop shed lights on need to educate citizens about their rights in order for them to demand for and protect their rights and to help monitor the human rights situations.

Participants from their side demanded the need to include HR issue in the formal educational process and to adopt the syllabus to accommodate subjects related to human rights issues in addition to build capacity of the cadre to be able to teach related issues.



### Bethlehem- Sunday 18/4/2010

"SHAMS" center held a workshop in Beit Faja village on "**Promoting Concepts of Good Governance**".

The workshop addressed the importance of youth participation in the development of their communities and in disseminating and implementing principles of GG to ensure transparency and accountability through youth participation in the management of public affairs.

Participants emphasized on the peculiar advantage of the Palestinian demographic composition that is formed mainly from youth segment which entails real youth participation in decision making and in developmental process.

Participants also recommended the need to work on supporting young people and providing them with necessary capabilities in order to enable them contribute to the development of their society.



### **Jerusalem- Sunday 25/4/2010**

"SHAMS" center a workshop in Beit Ennan village on the **"Developmental Role of the Palestinian Local Government Units"**.

The workshop addressed the history of local government in Palestine and obstacles and challenges that deter its development.

Also discussion was focused on centralization and decentralization approaches and their relation to level of developmental role that LGU's can play.

Participants stressed the need to avoid the narrow partisanship in the work of local bodies in addition to develop the legal framework connected to local government in a way that ensures more independence margin to LGU's.

In addition, Participants stressed the importance of providing adequate financial resources to help local bodies to perform their roles and duties to the community.



### **Salfeet- Tuesday 20/4/2010**

"SHAMS" center held a workshop in Harres village on **"Public Freedoms in the International Covenants and the Basic Law"**.

The workshop discussed the related international covenants in comparison with the Basic Law, also discussion was made on the impact of the internal political divide on public freedoms in West Bank and Gaza where participants demanded the need to comply with laws that guarantee citizens' public freedoms and called for the need to protect values of public freedoms.



### **Salfeet- Wednesday 21/4/2010**

"SHAMS" center held a workshop in Kufr Thelth village on **"Social Upbringing and its relation to Violence"**.

The workshop addressed the context of the social upbringing with its dimensions comprising the family, the school and the community and how these elements influence shape of the social upbringing, in addition to the grave impact on children due to family violence and due to the prevailing inferior perception on women in general.

The participants emphasize on importance of education and awareness for the different society segments on issues related to women rights, in addition to importance of organizing a variety of training sessions for mothers and fathers "parents" in order for them to acquire skills of the modern upbringing which enshrines the principles of dialogue and the rights of women.



### **Hebron- Sunday 25/4/2010**

The center of "SHAMS" held a workshop in Soureef village about the **"Legal Status of Palestinian Prisoners according to the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention"**.

The workshop addressed the perspective of the international law on Palestinian prisoners in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and whether the Palestinian prisoners are "prisoners of war" that terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention are applicable on them.

Participants emphasized the need to develop a plan in order to expose the Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and to work on recruiting international opinion to place pressure on the Israeli occupation to release all Palestinian prisoners as they are prisoners of war.

### "SHAMS" Center Media Posts

No.	Hosting Media	Title of Activity	Venue	Day	Date
1.	Tunisian satellite	Israeli escalation in Gaza, and the demolition of houses in Jerusalem	Ramallah	Tuesday	13.4.2010
2.	Saudi Arabia satellite news	Demolition of houses in Jerusalem, the Israeli evictions orders	Ramallah	Tuesday	13.4.2010
3.	Oman TV	Michel's visit to Palestine, the continued closure	Ramallah	Tuesday	13.4.2010
4.	Annajah Voice- Nablus	About the workshop of the Centre on the sectoral Strategic Plan	Via Phone	Thursday	8.4.2010

### News of the Center in the local newspapers

No.	Title of news article	Date	Newspaper	Page No.
1.	Calls to transfer the file of the Israeli chemical factories located west of Tulkarem, to the political level	Saturday 10.4.2010	Al Quds	7
2.	Calls to involve everybody in the management of public life to promote the principles of good governance	Wednesday 14.4.2010	Al Ayyam	15
3.	Labour Union in Salfet holds a workshop on community participation	Tuesday 13.4.2010	Al Hayah	12
4.	Demands for the international community to pressure Israel to implement the international law and protect the citizens of the occupied territories	Sunday 18.4.2010	Al Quds	
5.	Demands for the international community to compel Israel to protect civilians in the occupied territories	Sunday 18.4.2010	Al Ayyam	9
6.	Calls upon the international community to bear its responsibilities regarding Israeli violations against the international law	Monday 19.4.2010	Al Hayah	16
7.	Symposium at the "Arab-American University" about mechanisms of implementing Gold Stone report	Wednesday 21.4.2010	Al Quds	13
8.	Symposium at the "Arab-American University" about mechanisms of implementing Gold Stone report	Wednesday 21.4.2010	Al Ayyam	14
9.	Workshop in Harres emphasizes on the need to respect the rights and public freedoms	Saturday 24.4.2010	Al Quds	11
10.	Emphasizing the need to respect the rights and public freedoms as fundamental basis for the democratic system	Friday 23.4.2010	Al Hayah	7

11.	A workshop on Public Freedoms	Friday 23.4.2010	Al Quds	4
12.	Call to sustain the rule of law and justice and to maintain public freedoms	Saturday 24.4.2010	Al Ayyam	10
13.	Open meeting in Jenin on the role of media in the observing and protecting public interest	Sunday 25.4.2010	Al Quds	5
14.	Palestinian Council for young political leaders holds a workshop to discuss the government's document "end of the occupation and the establishment of the State"	Sunday 4.4.2010	Al Quds	6
15.	Ramallah: start documenting the experience of voluntary work in Palestine	Wednesday 14.4.2010	Al Ayyam	13
16.	start of documenting the experience of voluntary work in Palestine	Wednesday 14.4.2010	Al Quds	12
17.	'SHAMS" starts documentation of the of the voluntary work in Palestine	Wednesday 14.4.2010	Al Hayah	6
18.	Discussion meeting at the Palestine Technical College in Ramallah on the election	Wednesday 14.4.2010	Al Hayah	14

### Participation of "SHAMS" in external events and activities

Hosting Agency	Title of the Activity	Venue	Day	Date
Media Centre judiciary	Meeting with the head of the courts administration	Media Centre judiciary	Wednesday	21.4.2010
Palestine Technical College	Student council elections	Palestine Technical College	Tuesday	20.4.2010
SHAREK	Singing ceremony for MoU's of Youth Local al councils	SHAREK	Tuesday	20.4.2010
European Commission	Proposal Call	Best Eastern Hotel	Tuesday	20.4.2010
Center for Democracy and Community Development	Attending a seminar on non-violence	Best Eastern Hotel	Wednesday	14.4.2010
Arab world monitor on democracy and elections, "monitor"	Mechanisms to activate the participation of citizens in local elections	Monitor	Wednesday	14.4.2010
Independent Investigation Committee on Gold Stone's report	Cooperation between national human rights institutions and the Committee	Best Eastern Hotel	Wednesday	7.4.2010
Law Institute / Birzeit University	Human rights mechanism in the Arab League	Law Institute / Birzeit University	Saturday	10.4.2010
Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights	Presentation of the annual report on the Environment	Best Eastern Hotel	Wednesday	7.4.2010
The Working Women's Society and the Geneva Centre	Focus group meeting to discuss the report of the Geneva Centre on Security and women	Working Women's Society	Thursday	8.4.2010

**Address of the center**

**2<sup>nd</sup> floor Raha Building, behind German Representative Office Ramallah**

Tel:0097022985254

Fax:009702298525

Mobile: 00972599525094

POB: 429 Ramallah

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

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