



## Monthly newsletter May 2012

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### Birzeit/ Wednesday 2/5/2012

Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop at Birzeit University about **“elections and lobbying groups and political participation”** within the activities of the project (enhancing the concepts of human rights and rule of law” which is funded and supported by UNDP and it included students from political sciences department. The workshop tackled three main issues including the positions of the United States regarding the Palestinian issue and this position changes from one president to another but at the same time preserving the security of Israel is a very central issue in the American internal policy despite the fact that Israel doesn’t depend on the American support to a large extent and it will not collapse without American aids but American is still standing next to the Israel. At the end of the workshop participants recommended the importance of accessing the approach of democracy and achieving sovereignty through the people’s willingness represented by elections, besides the importance of raising educational awareness in the field of international relations to identify its influence and analysis on the status quo and the importance of using petroleum weapon and controlling oppressing practices in the American United States, and they stressed the importance of advancing the national economy gradually to be a kind of weapon against powerful countries.



### Jenin/Monday 7/5/2012

Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop titled as **“elections and peaceful deliberation of authority”** at the Arab American university within the activities of the project (promoting the concepts of human rights and rule of law” which is supported and funded by UNDP. The workshop handled a discussion about elections and that its success depends on the parties’ commitment to the governing legal framework, and the accordance of this framework with international principles and standards of fair elections, and that any national legislation that regulates election should take equality within electoral process’s parties into consideration. he also mentioned that public elections represent the democratic mechanism for the peaceful deliberation of authority and to make change within any community, and regardless how to establish the electoral system but the important point is to apply this system since the compliance with rules and mechanisms of the selected electoral system is in fact the actual guarantee for the good workflow of this system, and an indicator that we live within a legal country that abide by law, and it is certain that if the electoral system improved, the democracy and political diversity are reinforced. At the end participants recommended the importance of fair elections, giving the right to vote and candidacy to all citizens, the essence of peaceful deliberation in order to access a democratic approach besides accomplishing sovereignty by people’s willingness, separation of powers, the freedom of formulating social and occupational organizations, freedom of expression and assembly, accepting political and intellectual pluralism, peaceful deliberation of authority in addition to the essence of conducting fair elections and having a law that offers freedom as well as equality of opportunities for voting and candidacy.



**Jenin/Monday 7/5/2012**

Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” conducted a workshop titled as “individual freedoms in light of rising democracies” at the Arab American University, within the activities of the project (promoting the concepts of human rights and rule of law” which is funded and supported by UNDP. The workshop included that there is an old and new democracy according to the historical development of democracy since the old is linked with direct democracy while the new represent the development and extension for the old democracy which transformed to representative democracy with clear specific bases., but within the framework of democracy we can differentiate between the system of democratic government and the democratic system. In the first case the system of government based on traditional structures of a system that differs with separation of powers (legislative, executive and judicial) with the independence of the last. At the end of the workshop, participants recommended the significance to raise the awareness about the essence of democracy’s values and importance and to educate citizens so as to enroot values of human rights, not to oppress individual freedoms offered to citizens and to amend some legal texts in line with international conventions.



**Hebron/Monday 21/5/2012**

Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” in collaboration with Democracy of Armed Forces DCAF center conducted a conference titled as “mechanisms of association between gender and community safety”. In which many subjects were discussed related to the applied legislations that govern Palestinian girls and women’s security, the harmony of gender within community safety plans and causes which hinder community safety. Participants also mentioned many causes headed by injustice, oppression, poverty, unemployment, political division, revenge, inequality of opportunities, lack of tolerance and accepting the other, elimination, failures in development and differences in living levels, and they also talked about reasons which preclude the rule of law. Dr. Omar Rahal the Director General of SHAMS center pointed that Israeli occupation and its measurements represent the main obstacle which hinder applying rule of law as well as the difficult socio-economic circumstances in addition to the outbreak of poverty and unemployment affect basically on spreading chaos and elimination, the absence of utilizing materialistic results of development policies, inherited laws, the absence of coordination between security entities in many cases, tribes’ belonging and lack of criminal laboratories and its equipments. At the end of the workshop participants recommended many issues including: in the Palestinian Authority level they requested to ratify on conventions, protocols and annexes issued by the United Nations and its bodies if possible (since Palestine is still with incomplete sovereignty), to include these international agreements, protocols and annexes within its national legislations and to disseminate it in the local level.




**Qalqilya/Wednesday 23/5/2012**

Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” in collaboration with Democracy of Armed Forces DCAF center conducted a conference titled as “mechanisms of association between gender and community safety” in the hall of Qalqilya municipality with the presence of the governor the general Rabeeh Khandaqjy, the colonel Rabah Zeidan the Director of political and national guidance, the major Saleh Husein, the major Iyad Nofal and Dr. Sa’ad Rostum the dean of Islamic Call College in Qalqilya governorate, Dr. Omar Rahal the Director of SHAMS center, Nicola Mason the deputy of DCAF center, members of public relations and media departments within security institution, a number of directors and representatives of security and civil institutions, mayors, local and village councils, societies’ representatives, academics, intellectuals and lawyers in addition to experts in international laws and systems. Dr. Sa’ad Rostum commenced to the conference and emphasized the conference objectives and significance.

The conference included the subject of gender and community safety with emphasis that it is an important subject linked with several factors as well as individual, collective, economic, psychological and environmental changes the things which make it a debatable subject. While the discrimination between the concepts of sex and gender according to a social cultural base not an ideological one which is concerned with differences between male and female formed socially via the prevailing and changeable culture historically. He also stressed that laws and legislations are considered as he incubator for the diverse rights similar to the Arabic legislations and the importance to outline the Palestinian project within the limits of rights and duties for all the Palestinians from gender perspective. He added that law represents the umbrella and the reference for rights and duties within the country therefore; the social policies which the country should adopt originate in order to protect the Palestinian woman as well as preserving her social rights within obligatory legal texts to provide the social protection and care for the woman.

At the end of the workshop, participants recommended the significance to include international conventions, protocols and annexes within the national legislations in addition to disseminate it in the local level, the significance to revise discrimination’s laws which distinguish between man and woman to be in accordance with international agreement, to amend these discrimination laws related to personal status law so as to secure equality between the two sexes inside the family, to work to enact legislations and modify some of the applicable ones in order to contribute to cancel aspects of discrimination against the woman in many fields and to enhance her role in the community and its progress, and these include the laws of personal status laws and penal laws . they also recommended the significance to cancel or amend any text that represents discrimination against woman, to guarantee considering “honor killing” and “violence” as dangerous penal crimes which imply conducting an immediate procedure so as to cancel articles of penal law which stipulates having

	simplified punishments against the man who kills a female relative to him or who infringed upon her justified by “honor” and to train police officers and prosecution’s members as well as judges on the issues of gender in addition to observe the efficiency of this training in making changes within the criminal judicial system to protect woman’s rights.
	<p><b>Nablus/Thursday 24/5/2012</b></p> <p>Human Rights and Democracy media Center “SHAMS” conducted a specialized workshop regarding “penal procedures law” in Nablus city within the project of “<b>promoting the concepts of human rights and rule of law</b>” funded and supported by UNDP, and the workshop included law students, lawyers, civil society organizations and police. The workshop tackled penal procedures law has offered the accused basic guarantees that protect his/her rights, and that the public prosecution entity has high authorities to arrest all the peoples regardless being any citizen or individuals with high positions and in order not to have abuse this law originates. And even the law has a Palestinian feature, but there are some comments on the responsibility of the public prosecution since when an innocent person is arrested and he/she financially harmed, the law didn’t explain this, in comparison with the French law which grants the compensation of that harm while the Palestinian laws just included huge harms like bribery. At the end of the workshops participants recommended the importance of citizens’ collaboration with the public prosecution to give people their rights, raising the awareness through societies and bar association in addition to have a logical discussion without asking heavy amounts besides involvement within the discussion of laws’ situation in terms of students, lawyers, civil society organizations and the high judiciary.</p>

### SHAMS press releases in newspapers

#	Title	Page	Newspaper	Day	Date
1	Within a workshop conducted by SHAMS center “call for respecting local and international standards of human rights	12	Alquds	Tuesday	1/5/2012
2	SHAMS center claims to protect journalists rights by virtue of the principles of International Human Law	9	Alayyam	Wednesday	2/5/2012
3	Qabatya education Directorate organises a training workshop for educational councils’ members	9	Alayyam	Wednesday	2/5/2012
4	a training workshop for educational councils’ in Qabatya	11	Alquds	Wednesday	2/5/2012
5	Qabatya education Directorate implements a training workshop for educational councils’	10	Alquds	Friday	4/5/2012
6	SHAMS center claims to protect journalists rights by virtue of the principles of International Human Law	12	Alquds	Sunday	4/5/2012
7	During a workshop: emphasizing the legal and constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression	Internet	Maan	Wednesday	9/5/2012
8	Call for reconsidering printings and publishing law to enhance freedom of opinion and expression.	15	Alayyam	Thursday	10/5/2012
9	SHAMS center conducts a workshop regarding the legal and constitutional guarantees	11	Alquds	Friday	11/5/2012
10	Within a workshop conducted by SHAMS center	Internet	Maan	Saturday	12/5/2012
11	Within a workshop conducted by SHAMS center: call for setting a strategy for media work and translate it into programs tackling woman’s rights and issues	12	Alquds	Sunday	13/5/2012
12	Within a workshop conducted by SHAMS center at An-najah National University: call for setting a strategy for media work and translate it into programs tackling woman’s rights	12	Alayyam	Sunday	13/5/2012
13	A conference in Hebron searches mechanisms of association between gender and community safety	16	Alhayat	Tuesday	22/5/2012

14	A conference in Hebron searches mechanisms of association between gender and community safety	12	Alayyam	Tuesday	22/5/2012
15	A conference in Hebron searches mechanisms of association between gender and community safety	Internet	Wafa	Tuesday	22/5/2012
16	<b>SHAMS</b> center conducts a conference regarding mechanisms of association between gender and community safety	Internet	Maan	Wednesday	23/5/2012
17	Within a workshop :emphasizing the respect for rights and freedoms and amendment for some legal texts	Internet	Maan	Thursday	24/5/2012
18	A workshop at the Arab American University about individual freedoms in light of rising democracies	18	Alhayat	Friday	25/5/2012
19	Within a workshop arranged by <b>SHAMS</b> center: call for respecting public rights and freedoms and amending some current laws	9	Alayyam	Saturday	26/5/2012
20	Within a conference arranged by <b>SHAMS</b> center and <b>DCAF</b> center: call for revising laws which distinguish between man and woman to be in line with International Conventions for Human Rights	7	Alquds	Saturday	26/5/2012
21	A workshop at the Arab American University about individual freedoms	42	Alquds	Sunday	27/5/2012
22	Within a conference arranged by <b>SHAMS</b> center and <b>DCAF</b> center in Qalqilya: call for revising laws which distinguish between man and woman to be in line with International Conventions for Human Rights	8	Alayyam	Tuesday	29/5/2012

**SHAMS center media participations  
TV & Radio interviews**

#	Subject	Inviting organization	Day	Date
1	About the center's activities and detainees' strike	Ajyal radio	Tuesday	15/5/2012
2	Rights and freedoms and gender	Maan/Mix	Monday	21/5/2012
3	Regarding the recommendations of the conference "mechanisms of association between gender and community safety" in Hebron.	Palestine TV	Monday	21/5/2012
4	The objectives of conducting the conference "mechanisms of association between gender and community safety in Qalqilya	Maan/Mix	Wednesday	23/5/2012
5	About some legal texts which stimulate discrimination against the woman	Maan/Mix	Wednesday	23/5/2012

### SHAMS participation with other organizations

#	Subject	Place	Inviting organization	Day	Date
1	Freedom of journalism is part from freedom of homeland	Movenpick	Journalists syndicate	Thursday	3/5/2012
2	The notion of formulating an International Arabic court for Human Rights	Ministry of Justice	Ministry of Justice	Thursday	10/5/2012
3	The notion of formulating an International Arabic court for Human Rights	Ministry of Justice	Ministry of Justice	Tuesday	15/5/2012
4	A meeting about the president's decree of elections	ICHR	ICHR	Monday	21/5/2012
5	The 19 <sup>th</sup> anniversary for establishing Statistics	Movenpick	PCBS	Tuesday	22/5/2012
6	An invitation for attending an agreement between the Palestinian and Italian High Judicial Councils.	High Judicial Councils	High Judicial Councils	Tuesday	22/5/2012
7	A celebration for Ein Yabroud school's girls' initiative	Ein Yabroud school's	Teacher creativity center	Thursday	31/5/2012

#### SHAMS center address

Ramallah, Almassyoun, Louis Favre St. Sindyan 3 building 1<sup>st</sup> floor

0097022985254Tel :

0097022985255Fax :

00972599525094Mobile :

429P.O.Box Ramallah

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

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