

## Final Report/Completion Report

**"The Culture of Tolerance & Accepting One Another"**

**Reporting Period:** 01/08/2006 to 30/ 09/ 2007

<b>National Partner:</b> Centre for Human Rights & Democratic Participation "SHAMS"	
<b>Starting Date:</b> 01/08/2006	<b>Earlier reports:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarterly reports
<b>Expected Completion Date:</b> 30/ 09/ 2007	

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## **Thanks & Appreciation**

On behalf of the president and members of the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and friends of the Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Participation "SHAMS", targeted groups and myself, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our friends "the people of Denmark and their government" for their support to the project of "Culture of Tolerance & Acceptance the Other".

Our thanks go to His Excellency "the Danish Ambassador to the Palestinian National Authority ; Mr. Rolf Holombo, the loyal friend of the Palestinian people, not only for his kind approval to the project, but also for his valuable participation in the various activities of the project and allocating enough time for us in directing and participating in making it successful.

We also would like to dedicate our acknowledgement to our friend "H.E the Deputy Ambassador; Mr. Rasmus", for his active participation, enthusiasm and personal involvement during the project implementation, he bore with us the onus in delivering the core message of the project, his unshakable commitment in making himself available is highly appreciated.

And our sincere thanks to the dear lady "Rima Majaj" who accompanied us throughout the whole process since the project was an idea until its completion (from cradle to grave). I thank her for her follow-up and direct supervision of the various details of the project, which had a great impact towards the success of the activities of the project. She bore with us all difficulties. Her commitment, professionalism, impartiality and objectivity have added value to the work to make this project successful. She demonstrated great loyalty to her work. On the other hand, she was distinguished Palestinian citizen.

We also thank volunteering friends at the Danish mission; Morten, Thomasmler, Birgul and Odwan.

Thank you all for giving us the opportunity so that we have a place under the sun and giving us hope to prove ourselves.

At the end, we hope that this project will be the beginning of a larger and wider partnership between us and our friends "the Danish people", and even European Union on the way to achieve rapprochement, understanding, dialogue, acceptance of others, and deepen good-neighbourly friendship between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

**May you all accept the assurances of my highest appreciation**

**Sincerely,  
Omar Rahal**

## ○ **Executive Summary**

The following is a final report/ completion report for the project of "**The Culture of Tolerance & Accepting One Another**" which was implemented between the period of 01/08/2006 and 30/ 09/ 2007. The project aimed at promoting the culture of tolerance and accepting the other through introducing the European Union and the Danish political system and its foreign policy towards the Palestinian issue to the target group. One hundred and four workshops (instead of 94 planned workshops) were conducted during the twelve months of implementation, and 3425 participants took part of those activities. The project's budget was \$ 120,000.

In addition to the main & specific goals, targeted groups, methodology and implemented activities, the report includes outputs, success stories/ achievements, difficulties/ solutions, deviations from the original plan/ reasons & solutions/ suggestions, recommendations, evaluation, documentation (photos, newspapers scripts) and expenses.

## ○ **Overall Objectives**

The project aims at promoting the culture of tolerance and accepting the other through introducing the European Union and the Danish political system and its foreign policy towards the Palestinian issue to the targeted groups.

## ○ **Specific Objectives**

The following are specific objectives of the project:

1. To enhance the role of youth in Palestinian society towards a more constructive, moderate and open approach to handle the challenges facing their society through the promotion of democratic ideals of tolerance and accepting the other.
2. To reach out 1200 youths (males and females) through creating a suitable atmosphere for discussion on various issues, through using of the multiplier effect to outreach the maximum number of youth
3. To introduce a comprehensive and precise picture of Denmark: its political system values and culture as an integrative part of the European Union. In particular:
  - a) The Danish political system and its foreign policy towards the Palestinian issue
  - b) The values and principles esteemed by the European society in general, with focus on Denmark

### ○ **Targeted Groups**

The Project is directed mainly at the male and female youth population in the West Bank cities, villages, towns and refugee camps, as well as the students in the colleges, religious academies, youth clubs, and Palestinian universities, namely: Al-Najah National University, Al-Quds University, Al-Quds Open University (all the branches) and Qalqilia Religious Academy. The project includes activities and programs executed over a 12-month period, covering all the West Bank districts (south, middle, and north).

### ○ **Methodology**

The project was implemented in three phases:

1. Preparations: preparations, administrative and technical arrangements
2. Conducting workshops: the project is based on conducting discussion workshops for the targeted groups, in the targeted areas. Those discussions relied on brainstorming, rather than on traditional way of lecturing. After a brief opening and introduction by the constructors or main interlocutors, participants start open discussion and raising questions to be tackled by the instructor and other participants. At the end, those participants are required to fill an evaluation form answering questions regarding issues raised during the discussion (participants' evaluation).
3. Monitoring & Evaluation: conducting on site, periodic and final reports
4. Documentations: photo taking and staff evaluation

\*\* All detailed methodology may be found in the original action plan of the project.

### ○ **Assumptions**

1. Participants initially are open to change, tolerance and are willing to accept coexistence.
2. Participants initially possess some tolerance and are willing to take part in dialogue.
3. Participants initially have misinformation, misinterpretation and lack of knowledge.
4. Ability to attract willing participants
5. Impediments on movement & Access.
6. Advance preparation and the ability to recruit skilful coordinators and speakers
7. Universities and higher education institutions are capable and willing.
8. Consolidation of all the findings and compile information
9. Evaluation results of the positive findings.

○ **Risks & Recommendations**

1. Movement restrictions – solution: creating vast networking of volunteers in different areas.
2. Unavailability of Speakers – solution: prearranging qualified alternate speakers
3. Switching to alternate governorates – solution: capability to set alternate programmes and facilities in other governorates or towns within a day's notice
4. Potential lack of acceptance (reluctance) – solution: this would be overcome vis-à-vis adept training and education of the various participants, coupled with sufficient advance preparation and the ability to avail skilful coordinators and speakers.

○ **Implemented Activities**

In the following chart, all implemented workshops, instructors, interlocutors, dates, locations and # of participants:

*1. Workshops:*

No	Title	Lecturer	Date	Place	# of Participants
<b>September 2006</b>					
1	Cultural specifics and the Universality of Human rights	Dr. Naser Nimmer	11/9	Nurshams Camp/ Tulkerm	21
2	Tolerance and accepting the other	Dr. Issa Abu Zhera	13/9	Bethlehem	22
3	Cartoon crisis	Abdel Karim Miz'el	14/9	Kufr Eldik/ Salfit	30
4	Muslims in the European Union	Dr. sameer Awad	18/9	Ramallah	13
5	Freedom of thought	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash	19/9	Beit Ommar/ Hebron	20
6	Political system in Denmark	Dr. Ayman yousef	20/9	American University/ Jenin	32
7	Freedom of press	Gazi Bani Odeh and Imad Sa'adeh	21/9	Nablus	15
8	Religious freedom in the EU	Dr. Suliman Abu dayyeh	27/9	YMCA/ Jerusalem	34
<b>October 2006</b>					
1	Religion and government	Dr. Awad Allah Utt	2/10	Hableh/ Qalqilia	25
2	Tolerance and accepting the other	Dr. Najat Abu Baker	8/10	Toubas	45
3	Freedom of thought and religion	Dr. Taleb Awad	15/10	Hebron	27
4	Cultural specifics and the Universality of Human rights	Ahamd Saadi	15/10	Rammallah	41
5	Foreign policy of the European union	Dr. Nayef Abu Khalaf	15/10	Nablus	15
6	Religion and political tolerance	Dr. Hana Issa	15/10	Bethlehem University/ Bethlehem	24
7	Religion and government	Dr. Raed Ne'erat	16/10	Nablus	15

8	Cartoon crisis	Dr. Abedel karem Miz'el	18/10	YWCA/ Jericho	57
<b>November 2006</b>					
1	The freedom of opinion and the freedom of press in the democratic countries: Denmark as a study case	Dr. Fareed Abu Dheer	7/11	Nablus	17
2	Tolerance and accepting the other	Dr.Mohammed Daraghmeh	12/11	Anatta/ Jerusalem	16
3	Religion and the State in the Western countries	Dr. Raed N'eerat	16/11	Tulkerm	21
4	The external policy of the EU	Dr. ROGER Hikcok	19/11	Rammallah	85
5	Palestinians and Arabs in Denmark	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayash	20/11	Hebron	35
6	Danish External Policy	Dr. Yamn Yousef	22/11	Jenin	36
7	Freedom of Belief	Dr. abdal abu Eid	25/11	Bethlehem	33
8	Political and Religious Tolerance	Dr. Nadeem Msees	27/11	Jerusalem	30
9	Cultural Specifics and the universality of Human Right	Dr. Naser Nimer	29/11	Qalqlia	22
10	Tolerance and Accepting the other	Dr. Maha Masri	30/11	Salfeet	19
<b>December 2006</b>					
1	Cultural specifics and the universality of Human rights	Dr. Mohammed Ahmmed	3/12	Jenin	35
2	Freedom of belief	Dr.Samih Shbeb	5/12	Rammallah	26
3	Arab and Muslims Immigrants in Denmark	Dr. Salah Musa	5/12	Aqaba	20
4	Tolerance and accepting the other	Dr. Mahah Masri	7/12	Qalqelia	29
5	Palestinians and Arabs in Denmark	Rabih Ahmad and Raed N'erat	10/12	Toolkarem	61
6	Palestinians and Arabs in Denmark	Dr. Raid Neirat	10/12	Toolkarem	24
7	Palestinians and Arabs in Denmark	Rabih Ahmad and Jamal Hanaysheh	11/12	Jenin	47
8	Palestinians and Arabs in Denmark	Dr. Jamal Hanaysheh	11/12	Jenin	45
9	Tolerance an accepting the other	Dr. Maha Masri	14/12	Nablus	93
10	Cartoon crisis	Dr. Abdel Karim Miz'el	14/12	Bethlehem	30
11	Religious and political tolerance	Dr. Iyad shtayeh	16/12	Jericho	28
12	The EU foreign policy	Dr. Jamal Hanaysheh	12 <sup>o</sup> 20	Tubas	26
13	Religious freedom in the EU	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash	23/12	Hebron	20
<b>January 2007</b>					
1	Relegion and the political system	Dr.Naser Nimer	6/1	Salfeet	20

2	The EU foreign policy	Dr. Issa Abu Zhiera	7/1	Bethlehem	28
3	Cartoon crisis	Bashshar Eldik	14/1	Bethlehem	28
4	Cultural dialogue	Dr. Jacob Petersson and	16/1	Hebron	41
5	Communicating with other civilization	Jacob Peterson and Mohammed Awwad	16/1	Jenin	74
6	Cultural dialogue	Roger Hikcock	17/1	Ramallah	55
7	Communication & dialogue with the other	Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen	17/1	Hebron	45
8	The rule of modern media in forming a public opinion, father Bendicate statements and the cartoon crisis as case studies	Dr. Ghassan Abdallah	25/1	Rammallah	42
9	Cultural education and its role in forming the image about Muslims	Dr. Imad Shtayeh	25/1	Qalqilia	23
10	The Danish foreign policy	Dr. Bashar diek	29/1	Nablus	28
11	Peaceful conflict resolution	Dr. Khaled Rasheed	30/1	Nablus	30

### February 2007

1	The cultural identity and the universality of human rights.	Dr. Jony Asi	4 /2	Kufr Ne'meh	15
2	Phenomenon of extremism	Yasir Alawneh	12/2	Balata Refugee Camp	20
3	The relation between West and East/ struggle or cooperation (the cartoons and the Bob speech examples)	Dr. Abdul Mezel	18/2	Nablus	15
4	The foreign policy of the European Union	Saleh Taha	20/2	Tulkerm	40
5	State & Religion in the West	Dr. Nadim Msis	22/2	Beddo/ Jerusalem	32

### March 2007

1	The relation between East & West	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash	6/3	Arrub	29
2	The other in the Palestinian upbringing (Europe example)	Dr Abdul Mezel	10/3	Alaraqa/ Jenin	18
3	Freedom of expression & speech in democratic countries (Denmark)	Dr. Adnan Ayyash	10/3	Tulkerm	21
4	Freedom of Expression & Journalism in the West (Denmark)	Dr. Adnan Ayyash	13/3	Tulkerm	20
5	Tolerance & accepting the Other	Bashar Eldik	15/3	Aloja/ Jericho	29
6	Denmark foreign policy & the Palestinian Question	Rolph Holompo	20/3	Jenin	80
7	Denmark foreign policy & the Palestinian Question	Dr. Issa Abu Zheira	20/3	Jenin	80
8	Religion & state in the West (Moslems example)	Dr. Nadim Mses	22/2	Beddo/ Jerusalem	20
9	The Palestinian Israeli Conflict in Dutch & Western media	Dr. Mohd Sa'di	31/3	Ramallah	55
10	The Palestinian Israeli Conflict in Dutch & Western media	Mr. Peterson	31/3	Ramallah	55

### April 2007

1	The Palestinian Israeli Conflict in Dutch media	Mr. Peterson	1/4	Jenin	38
2	The Palestinian Israeli Conflict in Dutch media	Dr. Hammad Husain Omar Rahal	1/4	Jenin	38



3	The Palestinian Israeli conflict in Western and Danish Media	Peterson	2/4	Jenin	40
4	The Palestinian Israeli conflict in Western and Danish Media	Omar Rahal Dr. Husain Hamad	2/4	Jenin	40
5	Family & violence	Naser Mater	8/4	Ramallah	76
6	The foreign policy of Denmark & European Union	Mr. Rasmus	11/4	Tubas	75
7	The foreign policy of Denmark & European Union	Omar rahal	11/4	Tubas	75
8	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Dr Shamekh Alawneh Omar Rahal	12/4	Salfit	16
9	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash Omar Rahal	14/4	Hebron	34
10	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Fathi El Abed	15/4	Ramallah	17
11	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Fathi El Abed	16/4	Ramallah	23
12	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Fathi El Abed	18/4	Ramallah	21
13	Palestinians & Arabs in Denmark	Fathi El Abed	18/4	Jerusalem	19
<b>May 2007</b>					
1	Democratic Education	Dr Abdul Mezel	13/5	Ramallah	28
2	Extremism & Fundamentalism in Religion & Politics	Dr Manafa Khore	24/5	Jericho	32
<b>June 2007</b>					
1	European donors: ethical commitment or political agenda	Hisham Qaddumi	4/6	Tulkerm	37
2	Democratic dialogue with the other	Dr Mohd Al Ahmed	13/6	Saffa/ Ramallah	27
3	Role of media in promoting the culture of tolerance between religions & societies	The Journalist Mohd Daraghmeh	28/6	Jerusalem	19
<b>July 2007</b>					
1	Tolerance & accepting the other	Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash	1/7	Dura/ Hebron	34
2	Role of culture in promoting dialogue	Dr Abdul Mezel	16/7	Jericho	24
3	Good governance	Saleh Taha	18/7	Zieta/ Tulkerm	22
4	The relation between East & West	Dr Issa Abu Zahra	24/7	Bethlehem	18
5	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	25/7	Ramallah	30
6	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	26/7	Ramallah	15
7	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	27/7	Qarawit Bani Zied/ Ramallah	25
8	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	27/7	Elnabi saleh/ Ramallahj	28
9	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	28/7	American University/ Jenin	50
10	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	28/7	American University/ Jenin	50

11	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	28/7	American Jenin	University/ 40
12	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	28/7	American Jenin	University/ 30
13	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	29/7	Ramallah	25
14	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	30/7	Hebron	12
15	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	30/7	Hebron	20
16	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	31/7	Beitonia/ Ramallah	20
<b>August 2007</b>					
1	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	1/8	Abu Dis/ Jerusalem	20
2	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	1/8	Abu Dis/ Jerusalem	25
3	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	4/8	Jericho	28
4	Role of Palestinian community in Denmark towards the Palestinian cause	Fathi El Abed	5/8	Nablus	20
5	Tolerance & accepting the Other	Dr. Yusef Thiab		Nablus	20
<b>Total workshops = 104</b>			<b>Total participants = 3425</b>		

2. *Producing a book*: it is planned to issue a book to highlight about different activities of the project and to further enhance any prospective efforts towards similar activities in the future, Our centre will finish producing the book containing topics of the project, written by intellectuals and researchers interested and experts of the related issues.
3. *Organizing 4 TV shows* with Mr Abed talking about topics of the project. Those TV stations included: Palestine TV, Palestine Satellite Channel, Watan TV Alistiqlal, TV and Maannews TV.
4. *Organizing 2 TV shows* with Mr Omar Rahal about the same topics
5. *Conducting 5 radio interviews* with Mr Omar Rahal for the same purpose
6. *Inviting major media* to cover activities of the project (like: Aljazeera TV)

- **Actual Outputs of the Project's Activities**

Here are main outputs of the project's activities:

1. One hundred and four discussion workshops have been conducted in districts of the West Bank.
2. Three thousand four hundred and twenty five male and female participants attended those meetings, including college students and interested audience.
3. The targeted groups became more aware of the structure of the European Union and the historical background (as the enlarged EU encompasses countries from different cultural backgrounds). The Danish political system became more familiar to the targeted groups.
4. Participants showed more interaction and dialogue regarding the danger of violence, the importance of accepting the other and more knowing about Europe (foreign policy, culture and political system). Based on our regular evaluation, and upon requests from targeted groups, we added several new topics to discussions. Those topic created active discussion and interaction among participants and attracted their attention. Those topics are:
  - a. The relationship between the West and the East; is it a relation of cooperation or renewable conflicts? (The Bob's announcements and the Cartoons examples)
  - b. The political and religious extremism
  - c. The effect of Palestinian social upbringing on the concept of the Other (Europeans as an example)
  - d. The Israeli- Palestinian conflict in the Danish media
  - e. Family and youth violence
  - f. Civic education
  - g. European funding/ assistance: ethical commitment or political agenda
  - h. Media role in promoting culture of tolerance
  - i. Good governance
  - j. Media role in forming public opinion
5. We were able to attract many academics and experts who were able to take part in our workshops, to talk about subjects of the project. Those academics participated in the project's book issuance/ writing, they have already participated in many lectures and workshops and became a network of consultants and supporting team to our center and project.
6. Throughout the activities, we have established effective relation with media. Major media agencies and correspondents (like Aljazeera, Palestine TV and main local newspapers) were invited to cover most of our activities. Our relation with media was not exclusive to cover workshops but also conducting extra activities like TV and radio shows and interviews.

7. We improved networking with local organizations, universities, youth and women centers and municipalities in different areas in the West Bank.
8. Hosting the Danish guests and easing their visits as much as it was possible. The Danish representatives brought with them important information and quality awareness materials, in addition to the support they have provided for the project. Participation of contracted external expert lecturers (like Rolf Holmbo, Yorigin Peterson, Rasmus Groy and Fathi Al Abed) added to the value and enhanced quality of information given to participants. They talked about rights of Palestinians and Arabs communities in Denmark, in addition to the image of the other, away from media influence.

Here are some comments regarding the esteemed guests:

\* **Mr. Holmbo**

- a) The meeting that was attended by Rolf in Jenin created both official and public interest and welcoming. People kept calling long after the meeting to complement his visit.
- b) The visit was warmly welcomed and highly appreciated by public and local institutions and individuals, since Jenin area did not have visitations even by Palestinian officials at that time.
- c) There have been several requests from Jenin local organizations to prepare for future Danish representative visits in order to inform him/ her of the area needs.
- d) The exchange of information with the Danish representative impressed locals. They said that they did not have a chance to see their own legislative representatives who had left to Ramallah and did not see them since.

\* **Mr. Peterson**

- b. At the American University, students asked him directly about the Cartoon crises, and he gave them a clear, convincing and detailed answer, relying on the Danish laws and regulations.
- c. During discussions in the workshops, it was clear that there are friends who defend and sympathize with Palestinians out there.

\* **Mr. Groy**

- d. It came out with the impression that we still need to talk about and know more about Europe and the Danish, in particular.
- e. It also showed the need for more and immediate dialogue between the East and the West, which is included in justifications of the project.

\* ***Mr. Fathi El Abed***

- f. It was clear that Mr. Abed has special way of delivering information. It was easy and simple.
  - g. He emphasized that burning the Danish flag for the first time ever in Nablus had harmed the Palestinian cause, since Denmark is a friend of Palestinians and needs to be kept that way.
  - h. The participants and students had greatly enjoyed and interacted in the discussion, and they stayed two more hours after the discussion, talking to and discussing with Mr. Abed.
  - i. Academics and students in the American University asked for more of those meetings in the future.
  - j. We think that Mr. Abed was smart, convincing, has sense of humor, professional, confident and able to absorb all opposite comments.
9. The project stimulated new ideas for future projects based on the feedback and recommendations came out of the workshops. Two more project proposals were prepared and produced addressing issues of dialogue, tolerance and coexistence concepts in the East West relationship. Most of those proposals' materials came from participants' and coordinators' evaluations and recommendations. We can say that our current project helped steering our organization towards the direction of multicultural dialogue and coexistence. It became our main goal, mission and future plans.
10. The project was able to connect local community with donors and international organizations. As a result of the Danish guests visit to Jenin, local organizations in the areas presented several project proposals to the Danish representative office. 12 of those proposals were accepted.

o **Success Stories/ Achievements**

Here are some of the main success stories & achievements:

- i. There was an increase in male and female participation in the workshops conducted by our centre in the last few months
- ii. There was lack of information regarding support of Danish people to Palestinians. Denmark was always attached due the Cartoon issue. Participants who had worked with or received support from the Danish government before did not talk about that in any occasion. On the other hand, Shams (although it is a small and a new organization) was able to clarify a lot of existing misunderstanding and stereotyping in a short time.
- iii. In addition to conducting many workshops and group discussions, we were able to arrange for other significant activities like conducting TV interviews with Mr. Abed at Watan TV and Ma'annews Network (aired in Gaza and the West Bank and published over the internet). In addition, Palestine Satellite Channel has

- interviewed Mr. Abed and aired the interview three times; twice in the morning and once in late afternoon.
- iv. Participants were deeply involved in the discussions. They were also interested to know more (; curious). Some participants asked if Palestinians who have Danish passport have any distinguished marks that shows their birth or original nationality. Some of them asked if Palestinians have the right to join political parties, organizations or if they are allowed to celebrate their national occasions.
  - v. There was great interest by the local media in our activities.
  - vi. Despite snow and extremely cold weather in Ramallah on March 16th, the team insisted on traveling to Jericho and conducted the workshop as planned.
  - vii. As a result of the Danish representative visit to Jenin, several local organizations in Jenin had turned in to Shams and the Danish representative office several proposals for funding their local needs.
  - viii. Although it was not planned in the original project plan, a workshop in Abu Deis was conducted right after Jenin
  - ix. Five hundred and eighty five young females and males have participated in 16 workshops in 12 days (moderated by Mr. Fathi El Abed)
  - x. The last 2 workshops in Jericho were conducted late in the evening (7- 10 pm).
  - xi. A participant from Hebron (he used to live in Denmark) compared between life in the Arab Gulf countries and in Denmark. He praised life in Denmark, in terms of social justice, freedom and human rights.
  - xii. Some participants said it was the first time they hear about the concepts of tolerance and accepting the other
  - xiii. One of our workshop moderators; Dr. Nidal Abu Ayyash, became very pro to tolerance. He argued with some of extremists and defended concepts of coexistence and human rights, while other moderators gave up.
  - xiv. Some of the Danish guests did not perform well. They refused to answer tough and real questions (like questions about the Cartoons)
  - xv. Highlight on some success stories: After the successful workshop that was held at Best Eastern Hotel at Ramallah on 25/1/2007 pertaining Role and Influence of Media on Public Opinion (Denmark and Pope statement as an example), some local and international T.V channels attended this workshop, Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel has covered the events of the workshop, also Watan T.V (local) has aired the workshop in its evening news (7:30pm), after that Watan T.V hosted one of our academics to talk about topics of the workshop during their (week harvest show), the interview was opened to audience participation to discuss role of media and its influence on public, the interview was overloaded by interested audiences to participate in the discussion.

#### ○ **Difficulties/ Solutions**

The project implementation was faced with the following problems:

1. The main obstacle faced our workshops was the negative image perceived about the West in general and Denmark in particular (because of the Cartoons, political support to Israel and their military participation in Iraq).
2. The Israeli military procedures caused several workshops' moderators not showing up on time, or not to show up at all.

Solutions/ Decisions taken to solve the problems:

1. The response to those misunderstanding or insulting comments came from some participants were treated with dialogue and explanations that are based on facts and proofs; Denmark is a friend to Palestinians, here and there in Dutch homeland, where Palestinians enjoy all rights, just like other citizens.
2. We managed to communicate alternative moderators and lecturers from our network

○ **Recommendations & Comments Came from Participants**

The following recommendations came out as a result of implementing the previous workshops:

1. *Regarding the workshops:*
  - a) There was repeated demand for similar activities and workshops and for including more and more locations because participants felt that topics of discussion were critical to Palestinians in the current conditions. They also asked to designate more adequate time for the workshops so that variety of issues can be covered. They also suggested including families and schools in those discussions because they are an efficient starting point and effective tools in enhancing the culture of tolerance.
  - b) There ought to be a comprehensive strategy to fight against extremism all over the country. Participants showed that there is a clear need for more awareness and informative work to be done in order to increase the mutual understanding and knowing more about the others; Denmark and the West in particular. We need to focus on the following:
    - I. We need to arrange meetings between Arab youth and Western youth aiming at disseminating the concept and culture of tolerance and accepting the other. We also need to empower the personality of the Palestinian youth and work to find young Palestinian independent leaders away from factional conflicts, and haphazard mobilization
    - II. Palestinian decision makers must lay out a national agenda to disseminate the culture of tolerance in the Palestinian society. We need to help youth in reaching their goals away from exclusives, and not to intrude them in feuding that yield adverse repercussions

- III. Palestinians need to emphasize on the principles of tolerance in different religions and dogmas and broaden the convergence among religions on the base of mutual understanding and respect. In addition, they need to have an outlook on the Western paradigms concerning the correlation between religion and the type of governance
- IV. Further elaborating the concurrent vision regarding the relation between religions and states and ruling system and clarifying the concept of national resistance to occupation must be properly clarified by Palestinian media to outreach foreign audiences.
- V. Europeans need to maintain an active role towards moral commitment to several issues such as globalisation, human rights issues and self-determinations principles. The openness of the EU to various political powers and its peaceful methodologies to deal with problems in the Middle East. The EU should maintain and enhance the distinguished external policy attitudes / standpoints towards impartiality and fair resolutions accordingly with their important role in the international arena. Finally, EU must have more balanced foreign policy distinctive from the foreign policy of the USA.
- VI. The Arab countries must vest and build more efficient relations with the EU. Muslim minorities in Denmark need to activate their role to reflect positive image about Muslims and Islam and emphasize the role of Muslims and Arabs (countries and communities) to correct the passive image about Islam through different dialogue forums and to shed lights on Danish and European role in dealing with the Palestinian issue.

2. *From the comments made towards the Danish and Western media,*

- I. Participants emphasized on the importance of neutral and unbiased media role. We must work on promoting laws of press and journalists' protection and the necessity of providing enabling environment to journalists away from extortion and pressure. We need to advocate free responsible media that serves the society and reflects the truth without exaggeration or distortion, in order to shorten the gap between media and societies. Media must play more active role in disseminating the culture of tolerance and avoid the spawning of disputes and conflicts. We need to meet with western journalists to benefit from their experience and change the misconception regarding Muslims and Islam through media campaign and dialogue
- II. The world should not to apply and generalize individuals or minor groups' mistakes as if it is the unanimous attitude of the bulk of the society, wrong doings, and negative images onto the bulk of their nations / country origin. All religions must be respected and refuse the violation of human rights principles under the pretexts of cultural specifics or identity. Our reaction must be logical and we have to use dialogue as a tool of expression not violent actions. Dialogue must be our methodology to find mutual understanding and not to minimize violence. They added that we should not manipulate religion to the benefit of certain political parties.
- III. In order to fight extremism, we think that there is importance to continue this process of democratic transformation and work with the judicial system



to sustain and adapt more flexible laws and regulations that bolster the freedom and the democracy process. Countries should encourage the democratic practices in governmental and non-governmental institutions to empower freedom in all its shapes. In addition, they should be committed to combat poverty, literacy and crime.

IV. Palestinians need to integrate the study of the Danish foreign policy in the departments of political science in different Palestinian universities and reconsider the educational curriculum that rely on cultural distinctiveness and purify it from racism and stereotyping. There is a need to highlight the prominent humanitarian studies which is based on universality and unity of human race and emphasize the right of self determination for all nations

V. We may conduct international forum for dialogue among countries from difference civilizations and implement training courses for parents in the fields of human rights and democracy. We may also conduct meetings to evaluate the important events taking place and learn from our mistakes

VI. Palestinian civil society organization must have more active role in disseminating the culture of tolerance and provide the children by peaceful atmosphere based on tolerance and accepting the other. Palestinian leaders are responsible for the internal conflict and they have to find means of communication to stop the on-going violent actions.

#### ○ **Suggestions**

The following are some suggestions that our organization concluded by the end of the project, and might be useful in future similar projects:

1. **The staff:** Throughout the whole activities implementation, most of the people participated in this process were volunteers, except the general director. We are so proud to such huge network of volunteers, who, without them, the project would never had taken place in the way it went. Nevertheless, our organization is marching and pushing towards becoming institutionalized and professional. We need to qualify and improve our volunteers' skills, in addition to recruit dependable staff. This issue needs a great attention in the coming projects.

2. **The equipment:** We do have 4 desktops at the office, but we do not have any laptop, LCD or projector. Implementation would have been much easier if had those equipments to be used during workshops. It would have been a good idea if we had TV and DVD to play some of what the world's TVs had been showing regarding international events, pieces of European political and democratic life, or even tapes of lectures and discussions in other parts of the world.

3. **The budget:** Since we implemented extra activities and we encountered increasing number of attendants, in addition to the extra and incremental transportation costs forced by restrictions of access and movement, the project budget became far from enough.

4. **The time:** Again, neither the time frame for the project's activities that took place was enough, nor adequate to cover some topics, or covering all areas and/or all interested participants. That type of projects need at least 4 to 6 more months than originally planned.

- **Documentation (photos, newspapers scripts)**

Attached to this report

- **Expenses**

Attached to this report