Grant number	NED Report Reminder - Grant #2012-511		رقم المنحة
Organization name	Human Rights & Democracy Media Center **"SHAMS"**		اسم المنظمة
Country	Palestine		الدولة
Project title	The Dissemination and strengthening of the concepts of Democracy and Civil Culture within Sharia College Students in Palestinian Universities		اسم المشروع
Grant duration	1/5/2012 to 30/4/2013		مدة المنحة
Reporting period	2013/1/31 – 2012/11/1		الفترة التي يغطيها التقرير
Prepared by	Mohamad Abdulla		أعد من قِبل (اسم الشخص)
Contact email	omarrahal98@hotmail.com and c_shams@hotmail.com		عنوان البريد الالكتروني
Attachments (when applicable)	Financial Report ___ Payment request ___ Pictures ___ List of participants/meeting agenda ___ Press clips ___ Training materials ___ Publications ___ Other ___	التقرير المالي __ طلب الدفعة __ صور الأنشطة __ قائمة المشاركين\جدول أعمال الجلسة __ تغطية إعلامية __ نسخ من مواد التدريب __ المطبوعات __ مواد أخرى __	الملحقات

Narrative reports should be approximately four pages in length.   التقرير الأدبي ينبغي أن يحتوي حوالي أربع صفحات.

1. Background:

Describe relevant political, economic, or social developments (in the country or region that your project addresses) which have positively or negatively affected your activities under this grant during this reporting period.

المرجو تقديم وصف التطورات السياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية المهمة التي حدثت في البلد أو المنطقة المتعلقة بمشروعكم والتي تكون قد أثرت على أنشطتكم في إطار هذه المنحة خلال هذه الفترة.

2. Summary:

In bullet point form, summarize your organization's activities and main achievements under this grant during this reporting period.

باختصار, المرجو تقديم ملخص الأنشطة المهمة والانجازات الرئيسية في إطار هذه المنحة خلال هذه الفترة

According to project's plan, three workshops were implemented as the following:

#	Trainer	Number of attendees	Workshop's date	Workshop's venue	Workshop's title
1	Jibreel Mohammad	31 students (14 females -17 males)	20/11/2012	AL najah University	Promotion the concepts of human right and rule of law within Palestine universities student
2	Fahmi Shaheen	18 students (4 females-14 males)	1/12/2012	Sharia'a faculty- Al-Quds University "	The role of youth in the democratic transformation process
3	Suheil Khalaf	32 students (18 females-14 males)	18/12/2012	AL Najah University	Democratic dialogue and accepting the other
4	Nidal Abu Ayyash	17 students (2 females and 15 males)	24/1/2013	Sharia'a faculty- Hebron University	Democratic transformation in the Arab countries

1. NED program activities:

List and describe activities related to your NED grant which took place during this reporting period. These activities should match the activities described in your grant agreement. If describing events, please include the date, location, and the number and a description of the participants.

المرجو وصف بدقة الأنشطة المدعومة من قبل الصندوق الوطني للديمقراطية التي قمتم بها أثناء هذه الفترة. ينبغي أن تكون أنشطة المشروع متوافقة مع اتفاقية المنحة. للاجتماعات والتدريبات يرجى ذكر تاريخ ومكان النشاط وكذلك عدد الحاضرين وإعطاء لمحة مختصرة عن المشاركين.

#	Trainer	Number of attendees	Workshop's date	Workshop's venue	Workshop's title
1	Jibreel Mohammad	31 students (14 females -17 males)	20/11/2012	AL najah University	Promotion the concepts of human right and rule of law within Palestine universities student
2	Fahmi Shaheen	18 students (4 females-14 males)	1/12/2012	Sharia'a faculty- Al-Quds University "	The role of youth in the democratic transformation process
3	Suheil Khalaf	32 students (18 females-14 males)	18/12/2012	AL Najah University	Democratic dialogue and accepting the other
4	Nidal Abu Ayyash	17 students (2 females and 15 males)	24/1/2013	Sharia'a faculty- Hebron University	Democratic transformation in the Arab countries

- Participants of the three workshops were female and male students from Sharia'a faculties aging between 19-32 years old and from targeted Palestinian universities, they mentioned that they participated for the first time in activities relating to democracy. The majority of participant is from villages and small gatherings and their culture about this issue is modest, and their information about democracy is that it is taboo from a religious perspective.
- It's worth mentioning that **SHAMS** center has also produced radio drama about issues related to democracy. (***This drama isn't funded by NED side but the center has produced it so as to accomplish the project's objectives***).

1. **Workshop's title:** Promotion the concepts of human right and rule of law within Palestine universities students
   Workshop's venue: AL Najah University
   Workshop's date: 20/11/2012
   Speaker: the trainer, Jibreel Mohammad
   Number of attendees: 31students (14 females -17 males)

   Discussion's centers:

   - Democracy is the only form of the ruling system in accordance with respecting human rights, democracy as well derives its continuity and development by the historical movement in the human society, inviting to increase the awareness about democracy and human rights since they are considered as development and modernity significant fields in any community.
   - The increasing gaps between rich and people, between who owns and who doesn't and between rural and urban areas, weakness of the economic chances, the rising of poverty as well as unemployment rates represent factors and pressure sources on democracy and create a state of instability.
   - Democracy implies organizing relationships and interactions among individuals according the principle of equal citizenship with all of its indicators in freedom, equality and justices which represent the basic elements for democracy, and this means rooting the process of political and social arrangement according to contractual specifications as well as new institutional structures.
   - The first indicator for democracy is the existence of public elections and commissioning attained by competitiveness based on secret international voting which emphasizes the existence of many candidates and politicians and the right of voters to eliminate politicians whom they consider as not deserving to the trust.

   Recommendations:

   1. Increasing the awareness regarding democracy principles since it is the major base for democratic transformation.
   2. Providing a framework of legal guarantees to defend human rights.
   2. The importance of awareness concerning democracy's values' essence.
   3. Modifying some legal texts in the country in line with international conventions.

2. **Workshop's title:** the role of youth in the democratic transformation's process
   Workshop's venue: Alquds University, Sharia faculty.
   Workshop's date: 10/12/2012
   Speaker: researcher: Fahmi Shaheen
   Number of attendees: 18 students (4 females-14 males).

   Discussion's centers:

   - Young people differ in creativity and innovation which represent elements that require space of freedoms which is not guaranteed except with democracy.
   - The Arabic area passes through a hard stage of democratic changes and transformations within what is called "Arabic Spring" and was successfully represented in the youth Egyptian, Libyan and Tunisian revolutions.

Such youth joint movements between the Arabic countries expresses what is called the contagion's theory, and the success of youth in Tunisia in the revolution of reform and democracy has seduced and inspired youth in Egypt and other Arabic countries according to the same trend in their countries since the self-confidence has been promoted to lead this movement.

- The reasons behind the Arabic democratic revolutions which have been led by youth are represented in these points:
    a) The hard economic circumstance which the Arabic countries pass through including the high rate of unemployment among the capable peoples especially youth in addition to high averages of poverty.
    b) The poor distribution of wealth.
    c) The absence of basic freedoms in these countries.
    d) The outbreak of corruption in many political and economic domains.

Recommendations:

o Young people are the fuels of change therefore; they should be the targeted group in all sides: political, economic, educational, social and industrial one.
o Giving a space for the enlightening institutions which facilitate the role of democratic work mostly in the community.
o Enlarging the freedom's space for creativity and innovation within youth particularly and within community generally.
o Framing these freedoms in a good way so as not to overcome its scope and begin to set its negative sides.

3. **Workshop's title:** Democratic dialogue and accepting the other
   Workshop's venue: Sharia'a faculty- AL najah University
   Workshop's date: 18/12/2012
   Speaker: trainer: Suheil Khalaf
   Number of attendees: 32 students (14 female and 18 males)

Discussion's centers:

➤ The dialogue's culture represents the first base of respecting the opinion and the other's opinion, and the introduction for building the democracy's founds considering it as a human and civilizational significance. Dialogue in its correct meaning doesn't attain the desired objective without having mutual respect within the dialogist sides in terms of respecting from each side to the perspective of the other sides. In this meaning, dialogue represents tolerance and respecting others' freedom even if there is a difference in opinions because respecting the other doesn't imply accepting his/her point of view.

➤ Dialogue is built on having different visions and it takes place with the different other, which aims at enriching the thought, enrooting the value of tolerance among people and constructing the bridges of understanding within nations and peoples, at the same time opening to the other to understand his/her point of view in order to communicate with him/her the thing which will lead to mutual understanding. It is also the way to realize the information and realities which form the positions for the dialogist sides then to its understanding so, one of the dialogue's politeness is the good discourse as well as not provoking or humiliating them since dialogue differs from argument so in order for this dialogue to be successful, others' respect should be taken into consideration.

➤ Any dialogue implies principally a previous specification for two major things, the first is the understanding about what we are dialoging while the other thing is to understand why we are dialoging. Since there should be starts and rules for dialogue which is the context of this dialogue with what it includes in terms of dialogue's subject, objectives, limits, structures and bases. Hence it is expected to have differences in points of view.

Recommendations:

- Conducting a conference and lectures about dialogue's importance.
- Utilizing mass media to promote for dialogue.
- The significance to adopt a national strategy to enroot dialogue's culture and accepting the other.
- The importance to activate family's role in education.

4. **Workshop's title:** Democratic transformation in the Arab countries
   Workshop's venue: Sharia'a faculty- Hebron University
   Workshop's date: 24/1/2013
   Speaker: trainer: Nidal Abu Ayyash
   Number of attendees: 17 students (2 female and 15 males)

Discussion's centers:

- The subject of democratic transformation and its problems in the Arab countries raises many wonders including the definition of democratic transformation, its stages, requirements and mechanisms to apply it, and if there are any differences within the experiences of democratic transformation which many international countries have watched and the difference between Arabic attempts in this regard in addition to other countries' experiences and do the problems resulted from applying this concept in the Arabic countries differ from other countries. There is also a plurality in opinions regarding the concept of democratic transformation and the method which can be followed for its definition since it is a clarification for democracy's meaning and converting to it, it is also taking the institutional measures in order to reach the political readings through which decision-making is taken by individuals via the competeiveness of votes.
- The problems of democratic transformation in Arab countries consist in that Arab countries are not harmonious about the context of this transformation, but it could indicate to having some reservations by some Arabic political powers regarding the transformation toward democracy according to the western experience, but also having other powers which reject democratic transformation considering it as a western novelty which aims at eradicating the nation's identity and extremely subjecting it to western control. The weakness of social and political structure for Arab communities increased the level of risks resulted from the democratic transformation reaching the stage of dividing these communities and setting them within the stage of pre- modern country, in addition to the increasing strength and influence of political Islamic powers in the Arabic communities since the frame of reference to these powers is a frame based on absolute rules and principles which don't imply compromises about applying them and their contexts. Consequently, these powers have announced its belief in democracy and its quests toward it, but in the practical level it is limited to an intellectual well-fixed frame and can't exit this frame. As well, the absence of political culture which incubates the process of democratic transformation in the Arabic countries, the weakness of civil society organizations and its incapacity to contribute effectively to the process of democratic transformation in the Arabic countries and the strong interests that may be threatened due to democratic transformation in the Arabic countries which led to unifying the powers from the beginning in order not to be a source of threat to these interest.
- The continuous ending for democratic transformation's attempts in the Arabic countries has led to creating a kind of mistrust in the feasibility of these attempts and allowing the chance for the opponents of this transformation to highlight its risks and negatives on these countries and the international support for democratic transformation has changed to a problem that faces democratic transformation in the Arabic countries. Or this is referred to the link between support and special policies for United States of America as well as European Union, which are unacceptable policies on the level of the Palestinian citizen, the thing that created a state of doubt in any international support from these countries related to democratic transformation in the Arabic area.

Recommendations:

✓ The essence to accept the structures of electoral game and accepting the results of elections on different levels.

✓ Increasing women's representativeness in the political life.
✓ The importance to draft modern civil national constitutes that develop and protect human rights from a practical side without returning to give priority to bias.
✓ The narrow ideology for bias toward public and large claims.
✓ Opening spaces for dialogue between political systems and societal political powers.
✓ The significance of political willingness to accomplish the national and societal reconciliation through the transitional justice.

Evaluation:

How do you evaluate the results of your project so far, and how do you evaluate its impact? (Describe what has met, exceeded, and fallen short of your expectations.)

ما هي ارتساماتكم على النتائج التي يحققها المشروع وكيف تقيمون تأثيرها؟

The result of the project is the promotion of democracy culture and civics for Sharia'a students. We noticed that the objective of the workshops was achieved through workshops, which is delivering the important information about democracy issues for those students since they already have had a negative idea about democracy as it's a disbelieve system. Via the evaluations that were distributed at the end of each workshop, there was an interaction from students and they participated in discussions with trainers and that indicate students' interest in knowledge. As well they have shown their readiness to take part on other related activities the center will implement. In addition to the notes in the previous report:
- The initiative of students from the faculties to coordinate for workshops and providing suggestions regarding workshops.
- The obvious interest by students to attend the workshops and getting ready to attend even if the workshops are outside their universities.
- A part of Sharia students has accepted the workshops' issues while the other part has comments and objections.

5. Objectives:

To what extent have your activities to date contributed to achieving your project objectives? Copy the evaluation points from your grant agreement and write one paragraph regarding each evaluation point describing how you evaluate your project according to these indicators.

إلى أي حد تكون أنشطتكم حتى الآن ساهمت في تحقيق أهداف المشروع؟ نسخ نقاط التقييم من اتفاقية المنحة الخاصة بك واكتب فقرة عن كل نقطة تصف كيف تقيمون المشروع وفقا لهذه المؤشرات

The overall objective:

The project aims to find possible solutions to the problem of the low involvement of young males and females of religious faculties and institutes in the realm of the democracy education and other civil and human rights more effectively. This along with launching gender-wise awareness and education programs for target students on issues of democracy freedom of expression, human rights, good governance and civil society related issues so that to bring them closer to these concepts and provide them with better understanding on work and mission of democracy and human rights institutions and civil society organizations in an attempt to utilize their future influence on society towards creating the anticipated change.

The sub-goals:

❖ Promoting the concepts of democracy among Sharia students and enhancing youth involvement in the public affair via selecting subjects related to the public affair, in addition to emphasizing the minor objectives for previous workshops.
One of the most important objectives accomplished by the previous workshops is the promoting of the social responsibility within Sharia students and the increasing in the sense of responsibility about participation in the public affair as well as the most important societal subjects which relate to our community in light of events and changes in the Arab countries, the Arab revolutions, the democratic transformation, issues of elections and its significance in our community and that youth sector is the most essential in the process of democratic transformation and developing the democratic culture which represent the liability of mass media, universities and education in our community.

❖ Enrooting students' participation in the recommendations and discussion's centers after conducting each workshop, and keeping the communication with them via the center's staff and conducting a workshop in Human Rights

and Democracy Media Center "**SHAMS**" to enhance the communication within civil society organizations and Sharia students as well as informing them about all activities the center implements.

As well, one of the most important objectives for previously mentioned workshops is to construct a strong connection cycle within Sharia students and the center's staff so as to be in a regular contact in terms of the type of ideas they discuss therefore, breaking the ice within civil society organizations and Sharia students.

Main obstacles that faced the project:

- Students passed through the period of registration and modifying their courses for the second semester.
- Some students still perceive that democracy contradicts the Islamic doctrine.
- Some female students reject to be pictured during the workshops while others put their hands on their faces.

Success stories:
▪ Reinforcing the connections and links of trust between Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "**SHAMS**" , Sharia students and the faculties' lecturers which facilitate coordination for workshops.
▪ The initiative of some students to be involved in **SHAMS** center's activities in several fields, besides the contact between academics and students' and the center after ending the workshops.
▪ in Alquds University (Abu Dees) some students have established an electronic page to discuss different issues including human rights which were raised during the workshops.
▪ Some Sharia students have requested to volunteer Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "**SHAMS**".
▪ Some students requested to hold a conference which combines Sharia students all over Palestinian universities in order to unify their objectives and raise their recommendations.

Please describe important activities undertaken by your organization that are not funded by NED.
المرجو تقديم ملخص الأنشطة الأخرى التي قامت بها منظمتكم الغير ممولة من قبل الصندوق الوطني للديمقراطية

1. **The center issues a human rights manual :**

SHAMS center has issued a manual about human rights: a training manual was produced tackling different issues in human rights, it will also be used later for training the trainees and this gives it a priority to be training and awareness manual.

2. **Workshops:**

#	
1	The legal value for the International Declaration of Human Rights
2	The role of human rights' defenders
3	The relationship between youth and good governance
4	Adoption between the Islamic doctrine and Child Rights' Convention
5	The right to peaceful association
6	A roundtable about the significance of youth involvement in the public affair

Radio episodes:

- A Radio episode regarding the International Day of Tolerance.
- A Radio episode about youth involvement in the public affair.

3. The center's external participations :

Participation in a conference in Lebanon about: the transformation of the security sector in the Arab countries which pass through change on 17-18/12/2012.