المعهد العربي لحقوق الإنسان

Arab Institute for Human Rights

The Arab Institute for Human Rights Brief Activity Report

First Semester of 2012



GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Arab Institute for Human Rights in 2012 kept up with the developments and changes that have occurred in the Tunisian and Arab political arena after the outbreak of the Tunisian Revolution at the end of 2010, and the uprisings and popular revolts that followed in a large number of Arab countries. The Arab Institute for Human Rights, using all its potential, tried to respond quickly to the needs of Tunisians at the regional level during 2011 and the beginning of 2012. The Institute organized a wide range of meetings, seminars, conferences and training sessions in order to reflect on and develop arguments about issues of democratic transition; to propose plans and working methodologies to contribute to judicial and security and media reform; to lay the foundation for transitional justice and to include human rights in the constitution and to consolidate the principles and values of citizenship and human rights; and to open dialogue on development and economic, social and cultural rights.

The following is a brief chronological overview of the activities organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights during the first six months of 2012:

1) **Training session on organization management and strategic planning, January 25-27, 2012 (North-East of Tunisia)**

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized in El Kef (Tunisia) a training session on the management of organizations and strategic planning on January 25-27, 2012. The session aimed to develop the participants' competence and skills in developing intervention strategies to ensure the realization of economic and social development in this transitional phase, as well as how to manage organizations and strategic planning. Thirty-five (35) participants took part in this session. They are NGOs working in the fields of development and human rights and labor unions from different governorates in the north-west of Tunisia.

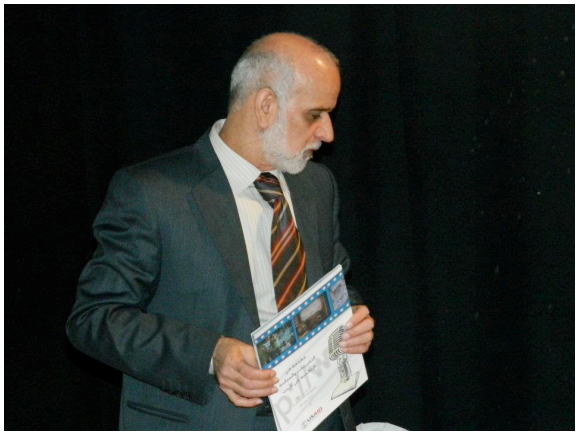


2) **Training session for media actors on human rights and democratic transition, January 25-27, 2012 (El Kef)**

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized on January 25-27, 2012, in collaboration with Radio Kef, a training session on national media on "The role of media in promoting the culture of human rights and its protection in the process of democratic transition". The purpose of this training was to develop the competence and skills of participants for the purpose of developing intervention strategies to ensure the realization of human rights in the transitional phase. Twenty (20)

participants from the media took part in this session, in the three sectors: the written press, radio and television, coming from various governorates.





3) Sixth Forum on Democratic transition and citizenship: Living together, January 28-29, 2012 (El Kef, North East)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized the "Sixth Forum for Democratic Transition and Citizenship: living together," in celebration of the first anniversary of the revolution, in cooperation with the Tunisian League for Human Rights and the Regional Labor Union (UGTT) in El Kef and the Theatre Center in El Kef, on January 28-29, 2011. This forum included presentations and discussions on the issues and problems of development and participatory democracy. The program also included a range of cultural activities. An art exhibition of children's drawings was organized on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in the Arts Center in El Kef. This Forum was inaugurated with a screening on development and the economic and social rights in the region. The film was produced by the Institute team of action.





4) National Workshop on Reality of social and economic rights in Tunisia during transition period, February 3, 2012 (Tunis)

This workshop was organized in partnership with a Network of Arab NGOs for Development. This workshop falls into line with the preparation for the Arab report on the economic and social rights under the supervision of the Arab Network of NGOs, and in partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights.

The Institute organized a national workshop since it is a think tank supportive of the report, and a contributor to the socialization of women and development associations, especially those working on the issue of the marginalization of the unemployed. The trade unions participated with regard to the issue of right to work and to the evaluation of the learning experience preparing university certificate holders to the labor market.

5) **Signing of partnership agreement between the Arab Institute for Human Rights and *al-Jazeera* on February 7, 2012**

The meeting between the President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Mr. Abdelbasset Belhassen, with the president of the Department of Public Freedoms and Human Rights at *al-Jazeera* Channel, sought to look at ways of building partnership and provide a range of training needs and courses to journalists of *al-Jazeera*. A partnership agreement was signed by the parties so as to further develop public awareness of the values, principles and standards of human rights and international humanitarian law and to boost exchange of training grants and training between the two sides and organization of workshops, conferences, seminars and training sessions to raise awareness on human rights and international humanitarian law.



6) **National workshop on The Civil society approach in developing a legal framework for transitional justice in Tunisia, February 08, 2012, Tunis**

Initiated by the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Arab Institute for Human Rights and with the participation of the Independent National Coordination for Transitional Justice, Tunis hosted on 8 February 2012 a study day entitled "The civil society approach in developing a legal framework for transitional justice in Tunisia." It was attended by nearly 100 participants from various Tunisian civil society organizations. Experts from Guatemala and Canada were present as well. The meeting aimed to push the efforts of civil society towards the process of national transitional justice, to achieve justice for all types of victims, and to prevent the return of tyranny and dictatorship.

Workshops were set up to consider the draft prepared by the Coordination, which includes twenty-one associations and non-governmental organizations from Tunisia, so as to present to the National Constituent Assembly to discuss and develop. The first group focused on the time span for the work of the proposed National Commission, as well as with the time span for its work, in addition to defining the concepts of "victim" and "reconciliation" and "reparation".

The second group dealt with the areas of transitional justice and the powers of the body or bodies concerned with truth, their working conditions, and relations with the judicial.

The third group took over the drafting of proposals for future work of the National Coordination to lead to the adoption of the text it will propose to the Constituent Assembly and the government.







7) Training session to political parties on communication techniques, February 14-16, 2012, Tunis

In the context of a program organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with the Institute of Press and Information Sciences (Tunisia) and the support of the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation entitled "Support of democracy components through strengthening the capacity of political parties in the field of democratization and human rights", the Institute with its partners organized the third training session on the techniques of political communication. It was attended by 42 male and female representatives of political parties in Tunisia. The program included a session the following points:

- Communication: technical preparation, tools and stakes
- Public speaking
- Communication between individuals
- Collective communication
- Political communication or political marketing: the marketing approach
- Using "marketing" approach in political communication

- Election campaigns
- Political communication and media
- Spokesman: functions and characteristics (Practical Exercise)
- Social networks and diffusion

8) Training on the spot for media staff of El-Kef Radio (February 14-18, 2012) and Tataouine Radio (February 20-24, 2012)

In a follow-up training of journalists at Tataouine and Kef Radio stations, a training program was organized by professionals on site whose aim was to accompany media actors during their work and to devise programs on human rights.

9) International colloquium on public media in Tunisia: Reality and reform potentials (public media's contribution to democratic transition), February 20-21, 2012, Tunis

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with the National Commission for the reform of media and communication, organized an international symposium on "public media in Tunisia: the reality and the possibilities of reform" in Tunis on February 20-21, 2012. About 120 participants took part in this conference from media organizations, public and private, as well as specialists in information and communication fields, from Tunisia and the Arab countries, as well as a number of foreign countries (South Africa, Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland). The participants discussed during the following topics:

- Definition of public media
- Issues and problems of the independence of public media: the concept of independence
- The independence of public media: legislation guaranteeing structures and the role of the profession in the impartiality and independence of the press sector
- Compared approaches / lessons learned from foreign experiences.

10) International symposium on The challenges and opportunities for establishment of justice transition system in Arab countries: "One year after Arab revolutions: Towards the development of a practical system of transitional justice", February 24-25, 2012, Cairo

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Human Rights, organized an international symposium entitled "Challenges and opportunities for the establishment of transitional justice in the Arab countries: towards the development of perceptions on the process to establish a system of transitional justice". It was held on February 24-25, 2012 in Cairo.

The symposium was attended by nearly 80 participants, experts and activists in human rights and lawyers and judges from various Arab countries, also experts from the International Center for Transitional Justice.

The conference sought to invest the efforts and initiatives held at the international, regional and local levels in order to continue the dialogue and deepen reflection on these issues and seek ways to achieve transitional justice in our countries. Also it sought to promote awareness of its necessity to ensure its realization in this transitional phase, which necessitated talking about the achievement of some experiences, while considering requirements, constraints, opportunities and stakes. The

conference aimed to offer ways to deal with the legacy of political, judicial, social, historical past, and to move towards adopting an integrated approach to transitional justice in a way suitable to the countries of the region, especially those that have witnessed revolutions and uprisings recently, in order to go beyond partial measures and adopt a more comprehensive vision.

With this in mind the essential goal of this conference, through participatory methodology, was to lead to the drafting a general document with an integrated system of transitional justice which includes perceptions of draft laws for the transitional justice mechanisms that can be implemented in the Arab countries despite their differences, both in terms of questioning and holding accountable human rights violators, of compensation and reparation, and of reconciliation and reform institutions to ensure a break with the past, and to establish hearing groups, to organize their meetings and to document witnesses. The aim is to invite the Arab countries that have not gone through upheavals to be guided by this document, as they had the intention to set the process of Transitional Justice (such as Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria and Iraq), or countries that have experienced revolutions and have not yet lay a system of Transitional Justice (Tunisia, Egypt, Libya), or countries that are currently going through revolutions (Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, ...).



11) International conference on "From refugee camp to shelter: learning from the Tunisian experience in relief and its perspectives", March 3-4, 2012, Djerba

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an international conference on "from refugee camp to shelter: lessons learned from the Tunisian experience in relief and perspectives" on March 3-4, 2012, on the island of Djerba. Around 140 participants participated in this symposium, experts from Tunisia, Palestine, Algeria, France and Morocco. Two days were devoted to interventions and debates on important aspects of the Tunisian experience in relief and refuge in its multiple social, historical and ethical dimensions. Focus was laid on the specificity of this experience, its uniqueness and the genius of various activists who provided relief to the refugees in spontaneous action at an unexpected moment for Tunisian people and at a highly critical juncture. After hearing testimonies and discussions that raised the question of the shortcomings and gaps regarding coordination between the parties involved in this area, as well as the problems of legislation and organizational restructuring during the crisis, also was raised the question of awareness of the rights of refugees according to international standards. The participants worked in four workshops to reflect on a

number of recommendations related good behavior and volunteer work and ways to develop civic action, and effective coordination mechanisms between the different actors to protect refugees and develop mechanisms of effective intervention to reduce violations to the refugees and to develop concepts and ways of national and international mechanisms for the protection of refugees.



12) Inauguration of an Arab Institute for Human Rights branch in South of Tunisia in Mednine, March 5, 2012

On March 5, 2012 was inaugurated the office of the Arab Institute for Human Rights in the south of Tunisia. The president of the Institute, Professor Abdelbasset Belhassen, the Governor, human rights activists and representatives of civil society and media organizations attended the opening ceremony.



13) Two training sessions on The rights of refugees is of human rights, March 6-9, 2012 (Djerba, South of Tunisia)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized two training sessions for activists in the field of relief under the title of "the rights of refugees is of Human Rights", in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 50 male and female activists from the provinces in south Tunisia participated at the event. The aim was to explore the knowledge and expertise of the participants through their spontaneous experiences in volunteering and to develop solid and durable skills, as well as to equip civil society activists with skills and tools to volunteer on human rights basis.

14) Visit of Open Society Director, Mr. Aryeh Neier, to Arab Institute for Human Rights, March 12, 2012

The President of the Open Society Foundation, Mr. Airy Nair Aryeh Neier, paid a visit to the Arab Institute for Human Rights as part of cooperation between the two organizations. In this context, Mr. Nair delivered a paper on the theme "the role of human rights and education in the transitional period ", on March 12, 2012.

In this event participated members of the Board of Directors of the Institute resident in Tunisia, members of its scientific team and members of the democratic transition, a group of experts and representatives of associations working with the Institute.

15) Training session on The importance of including women rights and considering gender in the new Tunisian constitution, March 12-14, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with Inter News, organized its first training session for 22 civil society female representatives from different governorates in Tunisia, on the theme of "The importance of including women's rights and gender in the new Tunisian Constitution." The training program aims to consolidate mechanisms for the inclusion of women human rights in the Constitution as well as international mechanisms for women's rights, in addition to the use of mechanisms of mobilization and support gain.



16) International forum on Use of law in social welfare in the Middle East and North Africa, March 11-13, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized on March 11-13, 2012, an international forum on the use of law in social welfare in the Middle East and North Africa, in collaboration with the "World Wide Web to use the law in the social interest". Fifty-two (52) members participated in this forum, mostly lawyers, judges and representatives of non-governmental organizations, and human rights activists from Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine, Jordan and personalities from Eastern Europe and the United States.

The participants discussed prospects for the development of legislation and support for advocacy activities after the revolution, as well as the use of law as an instrument of social activity and litigation strategies as tools for social activity. Workshops discussed the following topics:

- Development of Legal Empowerment Initiatives: Challenges and opportunities.
- Combination of local, regional international strategies to promote the rights of migrant workers.
- The search for alternatives to the processes of litigation, with an emphasis on women's rights.
- Documentation of deficiencies in the criminal justice system to push for reform.

Also was held a meeting to discuss the mechanisms of "integration of media and awareness campaigns within the litigation strategies in support of civil liberties."



17) Training session on Women social and economic rights empowerment, March 15-17, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with Inter News, organized a second training session on women empowerment in economic and social rights to 17 male and female participants from various civil society organizations in various Tunisian governorates. The program focused on the mechanisms of the realization of economic and social rights for women and considered the issue of discrimination and its impact on women's benefit from their economic and social rights, as well as the role of NGOs in the implementation, promotion and protection of those rights.



18) Meeting to discuss the strategic plan of the Institute for 2012-2015, March 24-25, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a meeting with its cadres and a number of experts and members of the team of transition to democracy on March 24-25. The aim was to consider mechanisms to ensure the continuity of the Institute and the development of its structures through discussing the draft of the Strategic Plan of the Institute for 2015-2012. This was a follow-up meeting to the one of the Scientific Committee held in July 2011 and to consider ways of strengthening the continuity of the Institute as think tank in the fields of human rights education and the development

of models and methodologies of work on human rights issues and democratic transition and their dissemination in the Arab region.



19) Training workshop on political communication techniques, March 21-23, 2012 (Tunis)

Under a program organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and in cooperation with the Institute of Press and Information Sciences (Tunisia), the European Union support, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on supporting democracy through strengthening political parties' capacity in democratization and human rights, the Institute organized with it partners its second training session on the techniques of political communication. Twenty-two (22) representatives of Tunisian political parties attended the workshop.

18) Regional forum on Local democracy and democratic transition: regions as active partner in state building, March 28, 2012 (Zagouan, North East of Tunisia).

For further activation of political life actors' role and involvement in the process of democratic transition that Tunisia is going through, the Arab Institute for Human Rights in partnership with the Institute of Press and Information Sciences and with the support of the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organized on March 28, 2012, in Zagouan (North-East of Tunisia), the first regional forum on the topic of "local democracy and democratization and participatory democracy." This forum falls in a series of conferences to be held in different parts of the Republic to involve the various actors in political activity to support the role of parties in political decision and to move out of the local to the national and even to the international sphere.



20) Project of regional training program on social and economic rights of Arab associations and organizations concerned with human rights in general and economic rights more specifically (distance training phase) April 01-30, 2012

This program aims to give training on economic, social and cultural rights, in general, and to enforce them, in particular. Distance training kicked off on the distance-learning website prepared by the Arab Institute for Human Rights. It is a first experiment for the Institute after previous experiences in cooperation with the Association of Human Rights HREA. The program included a set of documents and units on which the participants are tested once a week for two months.

The main objective of this program is to strengthen the capacities of members and cadres of non-governmental organizations in the Arab region in the field of empowerment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their enforcement.

The training includes two main axes:

- The concept of economic, social and cultural rights (the right to work and to social security and health, education and participation in cultural life ...), institutions and agencies in charge of their enforcement, and the right to litigation in these materials.
- Strategic planning in the field of economic and social rights
- Distance training starts as to part of the program through the website which contains a number of documents and units on which the participants are tested once a week for two months.

18) Regional conference on The role of human rights education in the current Arab political context, April 5-7, 2012 (Rabat-Morocco)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with the National Council for Human Rights in Morocco, organized a regional conference on "The role of human rights education in light of the current Arab political context," on April 5-7, 2012 in Rabat, Morocco. The symposium looked into ways of building a clear vision in human rights education, in light of the current Arab political context, to inculcate the values and principles of human rights, through monitoring policies, strategies and

action plans, programs and business education on human rights. It also sought to draw lessons from them, in addition to providing examples of successful experiences, as well as the creation of areas of cooperation between different actors.

The symposium addressed a range of important topics, including:

- The international normative framework adopted in the field of human rights education;
- Pathways of human rights education in Arab countries: achievements and limitations;
- Human rights education in the current Arab political context: certificates and experiences;
- Visions of a future strategy in the field of human rights education: opportunities and obstacles.

A hundred participants attended, coming from various international organizations, Arab National Commissions; Arab universities and Arab non-governmental organizations working in the field of dissemination and protection of human rights, as well as partners of the Institute and media actors, experts and human rights trainers, and Deputy Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Mr. Omar Zein, and the Secretary General of the Arab Lawyer's Union.



19) Regional conference on Democratic transition forum and its role in current Arab situation: the Institute's experience in Tunisia, April 8, 2012 (Mhamdiya-Morocco)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in partnership with the Regional Committee for Human Rights in Casablanca - Stat – organized a regional conference on the experience of "transition to democracy and citizenship to live together," which the Arab Institute started to implement since April 2011 with the contribution of the work team for democratic transition.

The conference was mainly concerned with issues of economic and social rights and development. Given the success of the experiment in Tunisia, the Institute seeks to disseminate the model in other countries in the Arab region.

In this conference took part more than two hundred representatives of civil society in Mhamdiya, and a number of citizens interested in human rights issues.

20) Special training session on "administrative management and strategic planning in human rights NGOs, April 10-13, 2012

The Arab Institute for Human Rights Training organized a training session on "administrative management and strategic planning within non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights", in Tunis from 10 to 13 April, 2012.

This session was devoted to the development of the participants' knowledge and skills in the management of organizations and strategic planning. The following points were raised:

- Identification of concepts and international mechanisms for human rights
- The legal aspect of good administrative management for organizations
- Operations and planning stages of projects in NGOs

Thirty (30) participants took part in the activities, coming from newly established NGOs working mainly in development and human rights in the governorates.



21) Roundtable on the refugees situation in Choucha camp (South Tunisia), April 13, 2012 (Tunis)

A roundtable was organized in Tunis on 13 April 2012 on the status of refugees in Choucha camp, initiated by the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as the participation of civil society representatives.

The President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Abdelbasset Belhassen, stressed that NGOs should have the capacity to provide legal support for refugees and ensure their social and psychological welfare. He presented some solutions to improve the status of Choucha refugee camp, particularly through promoting international cooperation and creating a legal framework in Tunisia for asylum seekers and though the inclusion of this right in the constitution, as well as the support the capacity of NGOs in the future in dealing with asylum issues, especially issues related to basic human rights in general.



22) A number of training sessions on Religious reference and human rights in the process of democratic transition, April 13-15, 17-19, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized three training courses on "the religious authority and the system of human rights in the process of democratic transition." Two parallel sessions were held on April 13-15, 2012 and a third one on April 17-19, 2012. Forty-nine (49) participants attended.

The three sessions were devoted to developing the capacity of civil society activists regarding the issues of religion and human rights, and to understanding the religious background and its relationship to human rights in the transitional phase.

This session included three workshops on different topics:

1- Citizenship
2- *Shura* and democracy
3- Equality in the Arab-Islamic culture (women's model).

23) Open activities in primary schools in south of Tunisia, April 15 & 29, 2012

The Arab Institute for Human Rights branch in the south organized training days open to the pupils of Batin Zamour Talah School, in Belkhir county in Gafsa governorate (south Tunisia) on April 15, 2012, in collaboration with the Regional Commissary for Education of Gafsa, and al-Buhaira School in Khdesh county in Mednine governorate (south of Tunisia) on April 29, 2012 in cooperation, in collaboration with the Majaz Association for Culture and Arts in Medenine. These training days were organized to give pupils the opportunity to exercise their right to leisure, culture and to use aesthetics in the dissemination of the principles and values of human rights. During these days a mural was set embodying the values of human rights, and a library of human rights was established in both schools to encourage the pupils to read and familiarize themselves with books, as well as to employ the legal library in the school in education programs.

In these events nearly 363 male and female pupils took part, under the supervision of 26 educators.

The Arab Institute for Human Rights endeavors to set libraries in rural schools in a number of regions in Tunisia.







24) Specific training session on human rights approach to administrative management and in Tunisian organization planning, April 23-27, 2012 (Tabarka, North West of Tunisia)

This session was organized for the benefit of The Associations in North-West of Tunisia in Tabarka from 23 to 27 April, 2012. The overall objective of this course was to develop the participant' skills and knowledge in strategic planning, management of NGOs, and planning projects. Thirty-five (35) members participated in this event, representatives of newly emerging Tunisian NGOs working in the fields of human rights, development and citizenship, etc.





25) Education forum on Education of citizenship, democracy and human rights, April 27-28, 2012 (Hammamet)

Following the endeavor of the Ministry of Education and the Arab Institute for Human Rights to promote the culture of citizenship in the educational institution, to show its values and to reinforce it in schools, and as part of the development of a legislation promoting civic education and human rights in Tunisia after the Revolution, the National Centre for Training of Trainers in Education in Carthage, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, UNICEF organized in Hammamet a national Forum on Education for democratic citizenship and human rights on 27-28 April 2012.

26) Regional forum on Local democracy and participatory democracy and democratic transition, April 29, 2012 (Zarzis, South of Tunisia)

This event was organized as part of the program implemented by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with the Institute of Press and Information Sciences, under the title "Support of political parties for reinforcement of the mechanisms of democracy". It held a series of meetings and training workshops focused on to the cadres of political parties in order to support their capacities in certain fields such as the inclusion of human rights and freedoms in their party programs, their inclusion in the Constitution, as well as issues related to democratization and the electoral process and techniques of communication between parties and civil society organizations and the media.

Participants at the seminar discussed the concepts of local democracy, participatory democracy and ways to achieve them, as well as the possible roles to play in local democracy. This opened the discussion on society after the revolution and on the social contract which must be built on the basis of ensuring the dignity of every citizen, male and female. It also pointed to the risks threatening the process of democratic transition.

27) Forum on creativity and freedom, May 6, 2012 (Kelibia-Cap Bon)

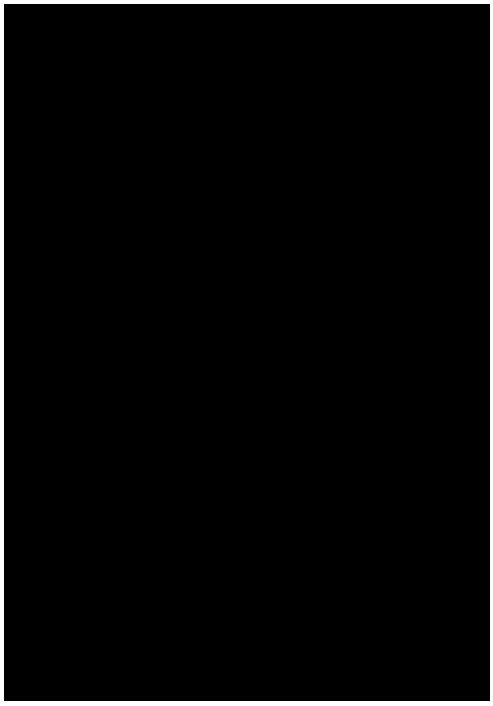
The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a forum on "Creativity and Freedom," in conjunction with the Association of Civic Action in Kelibia, the Tunisian League for Human Rights and the local Labor Union, the Professional Drama and Theatre Union, the Union of Tunisian Writers and, the Union of Fine Arts, the Association of Graduates of the Dramatic Art Institute, Tahaddi Association,

the Society for alternative culture, the Association of citizenship and democracy in Bir Ghezaz, the Assocation of dialogues on citizenship in Menzel Temime, and the music groups of “Fenni raghma anni” and "Klepia" and the "Choir of Hope" in Kelibia, and a number of civic and cultural associations in the region of Cap Bon, and a number of activists in different sectors of art. The event was held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 in Kelibia Public Park.

The event was fleshed out with the activities of associations and clubs active in different fields of art, theater, music and plastic art.

The Arab Institute for Human Rights supports cultural activities and the dialogue with structures representing artists and creators in order to establish partnership spaces for thinking and creativity to promote human rights.

The activity fits in the Arab Institute for Human Rights strategy for the dissemination of human rights culture in the hinterland in Tunisia.



28) Regional training session on social and economic rights, May 7-9, 2012 (Cairo)

As part of the partnership between the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, a specialized training session was organized in Cairo on May 7, 2012 on economic and social rights. This was part of activating the regional anti-marginalization and exclusion project based on the promotion of economic and social development in the Arab world.

Twenty-two (22) participants took part in this event, human rights defenders in non-governmental organizations and national institutions active in the areas of economic and social rights in seven Arab countries.

29) Conference on religious issues and human rights in the democratic transition period, May 10-11, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a conference on religion and human rights in the process of democratic transition. This meeting was devoted to studying issues related to religious discourse, human rights, citizenship, democracy and religious institutions in the transition phase, in order to search for the best ways to remove the misunderstanding between religion and democracy.

30) Communication forum: Human rights in the core of democratic transition, May 15, 2012

Under the project "Human Rights in the heart of the democratic transition", the Arab Institute for Human Rights organized in its headquarters a meeting with some of his partners, during which some projects supported by the Institute, were presented, discussed and evaluated.



31) Training workshop on reinforcing associations on networking and strategic planning according to human rights approach, (Hammam Ghezaz-Cap Bon)

A training course on "Networking and Strategic Planning according to human rights approach" was held in Hammam Ghezaz from 18 to 20 of May 2012 in collaboration with the local Association of citizenship and democracy. This workshop was programmed to follow up the recommendations of the previous training session, held in Hammam Ghezaz on 17-18 May, 2012, on strategic planning for local development, which was organized by the Association of citizenship and democracy.

The training program was divided into two main areas: Networking and building alliances on the one hand, and strategic planning using the human rights approach which is based on the results approach.



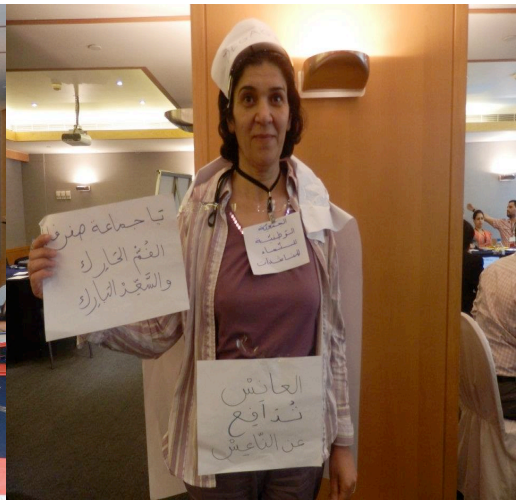
32) Thinking and training workshop on issues of transitional justice, May 19,2012 (Gabes-South of Tunisia)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights branch in the south of Tunisia organized in Gabes (southern Tunisia) on 19 May 2012, a workshop of reflection and training on transitional justice issues in cooperation with the National Commission for lawyers. In this training workshop were addressed the questions of transitional justice, its course and mechanisms, criminal justice commissions of inquiry, institutional reform, as well as the role of lawyers and human rights activists to play in the transition process. 101 participants attended from the governorates of Gabes, Medenine and Tataouine (southern Tunisia), mostly judges, lawyers and trade unionists from the Union of Tunisian Workers, and members representing the internal security forces and the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

33) Regional training session on social and economic rights, May 21-27, 2012 (Beirut)

The second regional training session on economic and social rights took place in Beirut, Lebanon, from May 21-27 2012, under the supervision of the Arab Institute branch in Beirut. In this session the second participated the second group that successfully passed the stage of distance training, consisting of 31 participants from Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, and Yemen. The participants deepened their knowledge of the economic and social rights based on the human rights approach.





34) National training session on Role of blogging and the citizen journalist in the process of democracy building, May 25, 2012 (Beirut)

Under the supervision of its branch in Beirut, the Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a national training session on "The role of blogging and the journalism of the citizen and photographer in the process of building democracy" in Beirut from May 22-25, 2012.

In this session focus was laid on identifying the concepts and mechanisms of human rights, on the issue of blogging and citizen journalism and its relationship to human rights, and on how to conduct campaign by means of video and photos.

This session was organized to support the capacity of participants in the field of blogging and social and media communication based on citizenship, human rights, as well as to enable them to integrate human rights in the organizations' media and advertising activities. 16 participants benefited from this training.



35) National training session specialized in using human rights approach in administration and organization planning, May 23-6, 2012 (Beirut)

The Institute of the Arab rights organized, under the supervision of its branch in Beirut, a session for the "the benefit of Lebanese and Palestinian associations" in Beirut on May 23-26, 2012. The overall objective of this session was to develop the capacity of beneficiaries in using human rights in planning projects.

The training session combined theoretical material about the system of international human rights and interactive workshops to teach the concepts and principles of human rights by drawing on practical examples suitable to their work.

Twenty (20) participants attended, representatives of non-governmental organizations, Lebanese and Palestinian, working in the fields of human rights, development, citizenship, refugees, etc.

33) Meeting of experts on transitional justice in preparation for "principles of transitional justice in Arab world", May 25-6, 2012 (Tunis)

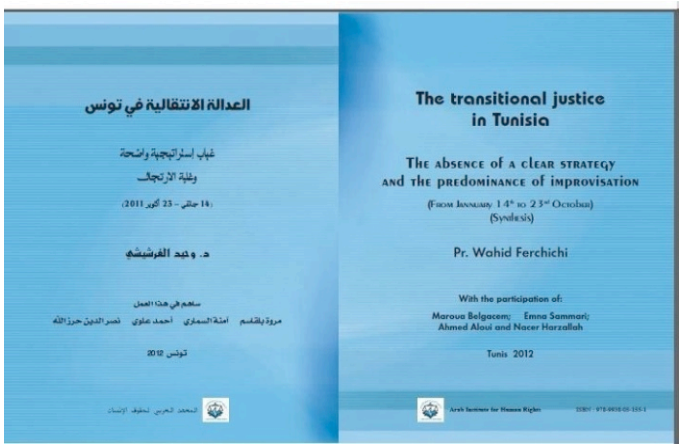
As a follow-up of the results of the international conference on "Challenges and prospects for a system of transitional justice in the Arab countries" after the outbreak of Arab revolts: Where are we from the establishment of transitional justice? It was held in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo, Egypt, on February 24-25, 2012. A group of experts in transitional justice contributed to its proceedings. A meeting of experts was held in Tunisia on May 25-26, 2012, in order to prepare a set of general principles (or guidelines) on how to launch the process of transitional justice in the Arab region, which would encourage all civil society actors and governments to hold consultations prior to the establishment of transitional justice. Two experts from Tunisia, and experts from Morocco, and Yemen, Libya, were involved in the formulation of these principles, along the participation of two experts from the International Center for Transitional Justice in Washington.

34) Press conference to present the report on "Transitional justice in Tunisia: Absence of clear strategy and predominance of improvisation", May 26, 2012 (Tunis)

Transitional justice in Tunisia from 14 January to October 23, 2011: "The absence of a clear strategy and predominance of improvisation." This is the title of the report which was written by the expert of the Institute and the International Center for Transitional Justice and a professor of public law, Wahid Ferchichi. This report, prepared by a group of 4 professionals, includes various orders, decrees and legal documents related to transitional justice in Tunisia.

The report was issued by the Arab Institute for Human Rights. It was presented for the first time during the press conference held by the Institute on Saturday morning, 26 May 2012 in the capital, to shed light on the results of the work of an Arab team of experts on the preparation of a text including the guidelines for Transitional Justice in the Arab world.

The book contains nearly 300 pages, including 200 pages in Arabic and supplements and a summary of 50 pages in French, and 50 other pages in English. It is a thorough work in transitional justice in Tunisia, including the tracking of offenders, the search for truth, compensation and reparations and political reforms and to prepare for a better future.



35) Training session to media actors on Investigative journalism and its role in monitoring human rights violations, May 31 to June 3, 2012 (Sfax)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in collaboration with Radio Sfax, organized a training course for journalists on "Investigative journalism and its role in monitoring human rights violations", from May 31 to June 2, 2012. The Session was attended by 30 participants from the media working on Sfax Radio, and media correspondents residing in the city. This is the third session organized by the Arab Institute for media working in national radio stations (it previously organized training sessions with the national Tunis Radio, Radio Kef), in order to boost media professionals competence in human rights in this transition phase.

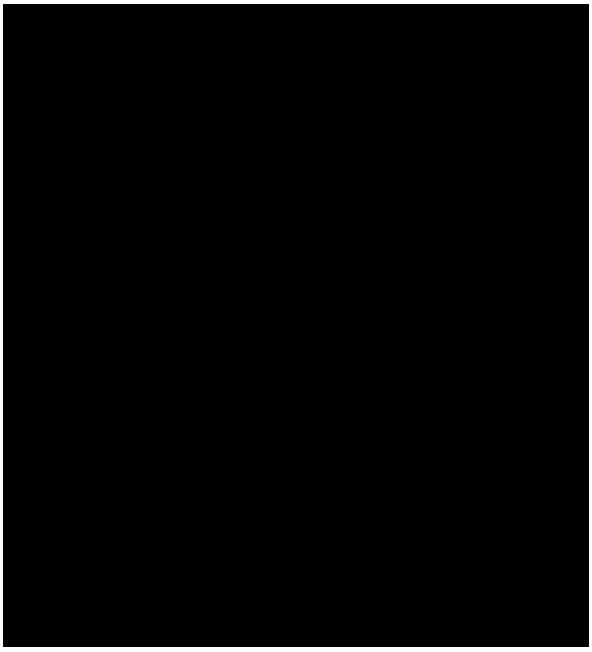
36) Training session on Networking techniques and sensitization campaigns in human rights field, May 31-June 3, 2012 (Sfax)

This training session was organized in parallel with the media session in Sfax, and 25 NGOs representatives working in the field of development participated. This session was devoted to the development of the participants' knowledge and capacity in planning campaigns in human rights and in launching new technologies for networking, coordination and alliance between civil society organizations.

37) Seventh forum on Democratic transition and citizenship: Living together, June 2-3, 2012

The city of Sfax hosted the Seventh forum on "Democratic transition and Citizenship: Living together," which was held on June 2-3, 2012, in conjunction with the Municipality of Sfax, the regional Trade Union, and the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

Intellectual forum included presentations and discussions on development issues and participatory democracy and the role of management in the process of democratic transition.



38) National training workshop on Social and economic rights between theory and practice, June 6, 2012 (Beirut)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, under the supervision of its branch Beirut, organized a national training workshop on economic and social rights between theory and practice, Beirut, 6 June 2012, in cooperation with the Union of Arab Lawyers and the Bar Association of Beirut. The participants gained knowledge into the rights and mechanisms of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Optional Protocol. 26 lawyers, male and female, benefitted from the workshop also.

39) Training workshop on Networking and building alliances in the work of NGOs, June 5-8, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a training workshop on networking and building alliances in the work of the association, as a recommendation from the Associations which obtained a grant from the Arab Institute for Human Rights regarding the project "Human Rights in the heart of the democratic transition." The workshop aims to strengthen coordination, networking and cooperation between the group members which the Institute is currently working on its expansion throughout the Arab world! It also aims to build the capacity of societies in order to strengthen their role in democratic transition.



40) Colloquium on Poetry in aesthetic crossroads, June 6, 2012 (Mednine-South of Tunisia)

Under the supervision of its branch in the south of Tunisia, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, in collaboration with the *Majaz* Association for culture and the arts in Medenine and the regional Commissary for culture in Medenine, organized a conference. It focused on the aesthetics of poetry, its origins, reception and its presence in the age of information, multimedia, and to boost communication between the artists locally, nationally and regionally. The Arab Institute for Human Rights employs the arts and aesthetics as one of his plans to promote the human rights culture.

Through the organization of such seminars, the Arab Institute for Human Rights aims to fulfill its role in the establishment of cultural dialogues and boost the different approaches and to integrate the broader spectrum of artists and intellectuals in the activities of the Arab Institute for Human Rights.



41) Ceremony in solidarity with children with cancer, June 8, 2012 in *Salah Azaiz* Hospital.

The Colors of Freedom Association, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, organized a ceremony in solidarity with children who have cancer in Salah Azaiz Institute on Friday 8 June 2012.

The program included a concert by Hope Choir of Hammam Ghezaz and shows conducted by the pupils of al-Andalus Street school in Menzel Temime.





41) Training workshop on writing, June 8, 2012, in Mednine School in South of Tunisia

This workshop was organized for the pupils of Gabes Road elementary school, in collaboration with the regional Commissary for Education and Majaz Association for culture and the arts as part of Festival of poetry and the arts organized by Majaz Association, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the regional Commissary for culture in Medenine, on June 4-9, 2012. This workshop was organized in order to draw the children's interest in theater and to diversify their relations through dialogue and training on techniques of writing narratives which include the principles and values of human rights.





42) Introduction and discussion of Mohamed Jouili's book *Banafsaj Dictatoria* (*Dictatorship in Purple*), June 8, 2012 (Mednine-South Tunisia)

Under the supervision of its branch in the south, the Arab Institute for Human Rights organize this meeting which was attended by poets, teachers, intellectuals and students attending the festival of Arts in Medenine. The meeting sought to raise awareness about the context in which the Tunisian revolution broke out and about ways to protect the transitional process in order to prevent the return of dictatorship, as well as to bridge the gap between the book and readers.

43) National conference on Protection of the social and economic rights of marginal groups: strategic tools and mechanisms, June 9-10, 2012 (Tunis)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights National organized a conference on "Protection of the economic and social rights of marginalized groups: strategic tools and mechanisms," on June 9-10, 2012, in Tunis. The conference sought to set a debate and deepen thinking about the role of civil society, state institutions and political actors in order to develop practical recommendations to set strategic reforms that ensure economic and social rights and equitable development. In this conference participated experts, researchers, representatives of civil society organizations, and political parties and government institutions.

44) Training session on Human rights and citizenship, June 11-15, 2012 (Mahdia)

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, in coordination with the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, organized a training session on "Human rights and citizenship" in Mahdia on June 11-15, 2012. Twenty-nine (29) participants took part in it representing Tunisian organizations working in the field of human rights in the Sahel region and the center: Kasserine, Kairouan, Sousse, Monastir and Mahdia. The session aimed at developing the participants' knowledge and skills in the fields of human rights and citizenship. The following points were debated:

- Identification of the concepts and principles of human rights
- Ability to use international mechanisms for human rights
- Identification of the principles of citizenship and its forms
- Determining the role of NGOs in promoting the culture of citizenship
- Ability to design and carry out awareness campaigns on human rights and citizenship




45) Training session to media actors: Investigative journalism and its role in monitoring human rights violations, June 15-17, 2012 (Gafsa-South of Tunisia)

A training session was organized for media actors on "Investigative journalism and its role in monitoring human rights violations", in conjunction with Radio Gafsa. The aim of this course was to develop the competence and skills of the participants in human rights and intervention strategies to use in the transition period that Tunisia us going through, as well as to teach them the concepts of investigative journalism and information research mechanisms and investigation techniques.





Publications released end of June 2012

Field study: Issues of marginalization in Tunisia: Saida and Zrig Districts as case studies

As part of the implementation of the project for developing the capacity of Tunisian actors in the field of economic and social rights, the Arab Institute for Human Rights commissioned Dr. Habib Ayeb to be in charge of this field study, which focused on two districts, Saida in Tunis and Zrig in Gabes, South of Tunisia, in order to study the reality of marginalized groups in Tunisia.

The study has focused on the following points:

- Identification of the concepts and meanings of "marginalized groups" and "marginalization" and their relation to economic and social rights
- Identification of mechanisms and international conventions to protect the rights of marginalized groups and relevant Tunisian legislation.
- Analysis of the reality of marginalized groups in Tunisia: opportunities and challenges through the study of two cases: the districts of Saida in Tunis and Zrig in Gabes.
- Making proposals and recommendations for the realization of the economic and social rights of marginalized groups in Tunisia (particularly with regard to the right to health, to education, to housing, to work and to freedom of association) ...

Study of religion and human rights in transition: With regard to the "issue of religion and human rights in the transitional phase", which aims to strengthen the capacity of Tunisian civil society activists in addressing issues of religious reform and their impact on democracy in the transitional phase, the Arab Institute for Human Rights prepared six research works focusing on the following topics:

1- Religious reform in 18th century Europe
2- Religious reform in 18th century Tunisia
3- Religious reform in Iran
4- Religious reform and moral values between particularism and universalism
5- Religious and political reform and their role in developing democracy and human rights in the Arab world
6- Women' rights between cultural specificities and universalism.

Training manual: ***Reformation and the Enlightenment and its Relationship to Issues of Human Rights***, a training guide to help young people to link religious reform with political and social reform and to open debates on current issues that might impede the process of democratic transition in the Arab countries.

Research papers: ***Analysis of Reality and Policy Development in Democratic Transition and its Issues***: A group of experts prepared these papers for the development of policies based on human rights, belonging to a number of topics (security reform, the judiciary and the media ...). These issues, it has been confirmed, are a priority in Tunisia's transitional phase.

These papers and proposals can be a reference to civil society activists and Tunisian official institutions as well as regional and international human rights and democracy activists to adopt and

benefit from to develop strategies in line with the requirements of the period and set the process of democratic transition.

Activities will be carried in the second half of June 2012

The Arab Human Rights will organize a range of activities in the period between June 19 and 30 as follows:

46) **Training workshop on the management of parties and party democracy and elections, on June 19-21, 2012**
47) **Training workshop on the management of parties and party democracy and elections, on June 19-21, 2012**
48) **Training session on human rights for Tunisian lawyers on "The role of the lawyer of human rights defender," June 24, 2012**
49) **Training of Trainers program for Scouts of Tunisia: the first session on June 20-24, and the second on June 25-29, 2012**
50) **Training session for Tunisian judges from June 24-28, 2012**
51) **Evaluation meeting with the regional program for human rights and peace-building on June 21, 2012**
52) **Opening of a branch of the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Bizerte (far north of the country) on June 29, 2012**
53) **Regional training course on human rights "*Anbatawi 22*", from June 30 to July 7, 2012.**