

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2000-2002**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

At its 4th General Assembly Meeting in Carry Le Rouet, Marseille, 7-8 November 2000, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network adopted an Action Plan for its future work.

The purpose of the present report is to describe the activities of the EMHRN that has been carried out within this framework. As such the report provides a detailed overview of EMHRN activities and should be read as background information to the conclusions of the enclosed progress report and to the separate financial report.

The report is built-up according to the Action Plan, the progress report and the financial narrative and narrates regional initiatives, thematic initiatives, and actions regarding countries.

The report of activities does not confine itself to the description of one year's activities. This is due to the fact that it has not been possible for the EMHRN to hold an annual General Assembly.

Thus the 4th AGM was held in November 2000 which did not allow for the presentation of a full narrative and financial report of year 2000 activities. The 5th General Assembly Meeting takes place in June 2002 and makes it relevant to provide information about activities held in the first part of 2002.

Accordingly, the report narrates activities that took place in year 2000 and 2001 with a specific focus on year 2001 and on activities undertaken by the EMHRN since it became an independent NGO in February 2000. Those are the activities that are accounted for in the EMHRN financial report.<sup>1</sup>

The report also narrates activities that were undertaken during the first five months of year 2002 in order to keep members updated about the undertakings of the EMHRN. However as the financial report follows the financial year, readers will have to consult the budget for year 2002 in order to get an estimate of costs related to these initiatives.

### **2. MEETINGS OF EMHRN EXECUTIVE BODIES**

In the report period the Executive Committee (EC) met in Amman, Paris, Stockholm, Beirut, Brussels and Madrid, Athens and Valencia; and the EMHRN held a General Assembly meeting in Marseille.

#### **A. Meetings in year 2000**

In Amman, 19-20 January 2000, the EC continued developing a strategy plan and priorities for future EMHRN work.

It was decided to opt for the strategic choice of linking EMHRN work to the official Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) agenda, while at the same time acknowledging the limits of the concept of the Barcelona Process.

The EC agreed to give priority to the development of human rights mechanisms in relation to the EMP, to: the participation in the Civil Forums, as well as dialogue with governments.

Thematic priorities were defined as the protection of human rights defenders, including freedom of association and expression; human rights education; migrants' rights and the rights of asylum seekers; women's rights; self-determination and the rights of refugees; and justice, including penal reform and access to justice. It was also decided to start elaborating country strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> This means that activities undertaken in year 2000 in relation to its 1998-contract with the EU Commission in the name of the Danish Center for Human Rights.

At the Paris meeting 17-18 April, 2000, the main issue became the elaboration of thematic priorities, the detailed planning of the Civil Forum in Marseille and the opening of an office in Brussels.

On 10-12 September, 2000 the EC met in Stockholm where it finalised the action plan and prepared the EMHRN General Assembly that was held in Carry Le Rouet, Marseille, 7-8 November 2000.

Participants adopted the Plan of Action, issued a number of recommendations for future work, adopted changes in the statutes (one allowing the NGOs from Libya to become full members of the EMHRN and the other expanding the number of executive committee members from seven to nine) and elected the new Executive Committee (for details, please see the report from the 4th AGM).

## **B. Meetings in year 2001**

The new EC convened for a meeting in Beirut 2-3 February, 2001, the main purpose of which was to discuss how to make the AGM recommendations operational and the establishment of by-laws and membership criteria.

It was decided to hold a human rights education workshop in Lebanon in May, and to change the format of the postponed women's right conference (see below). It was also decided to organise a seminar on refugees and asylum seekers as well as the holding of a seminar on the MEDA programmes in autumn. It was decided to re-advertise the post as coordinator in Brussels, as the former candidate had withdrawn (see below).

In Brussels, 23-24 June 2001 the EC decided to establish a 'Management Group (MG), consisting of three members of the Executive Committee, to whom the Secretariat would refer between EC meetings (i.e. Kamel Jendoubi, Colm Regan and Morten Kjaerum).

The EC adopted a paper on internal procedures, which describes the role and functioning of the Executive Committee, its members and the Secretariat and the relations between them.

Each Executive Committee member was given the political responsibility for a key priority field of work of the EMHRN as follows:

Abdelaziz Bennani, Justice; Kamel Jendoubi, Tunisia, Civil Forum; Morten Kjaerum, Dialogue with governments, MEDA Programs; Colm Regan, Human Rights Education; Khader Skhirat, The Palestinian question; Driss El Yazami: Women's rights; Bahey El-Din Hassan, Freedom of Association and Expression and Protection of Human Rights Defenders; Nazmi Gur, Migration; Eva Norstroem, Refugees and Asylum Seekers; Kerim Yildiz, Finances.

The main points of the agenda of the Madrid meeting (29-30 September, 2002) dealt with EMHRN response to the 11 September events, the World Conference Against Racism in Durban and the internal functioning of the Network.

The EC adopted a statement on the 11th September attacks and decided to support a symposium organized by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies on terrorism and human rights. It was agreed to continue the discussions of an EMHRN strategy in relation to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban at the forthcoming EC meeting and to move ahead with the establishment of a working group on Palestine.

The role and functioning of the Brussels office was discussed. It was decided that the Brussels office works within the framework of the Secretariat and Kamel Jendoubi was appointed as the political referent to the EC.

It was decided to follow preparations of the Civil Forum in Spain carefully and it was suggested to hold the EMHRN AGM in connection with the Civil Forum.

### **C. Meetings in year 2002**

The EC meeting of the EMHRN scheduled for 1-2 February 2002 was postponed to 28 February- 1 March 2002 and took place in Athens. The EC discussed EMHRN participation in the Civil Forum in Valencia and decided that the EMHRN despite difficulties in preparations would assist its Spanish colleagues in organising a human rights workshop. It decided to participate in post-11th September events by co-sponsoring an international conference on the question of the fight against terrorism and human rights in London, 11th September 2002.

It approved the concept paper prepared by the Working Group on Palestine. It also discussed an internal evaluation of the Conference on migration, refugees and human rights in Trieste, attended by the Executive Director, the President and four members of the Executive Committee. On that occasion, awaiting for the Conference evaluation, it was decided to write a letter to the Italian Refugee Council asking them not to use the conference in support of an announced Observatory on Migration and Refugees in Trieste (for further details, please see below).

The EC also discussed the forthcoming General Assembly and decided not to hold it in relation to the Valencia meeting but in Greece, early June. It was decided to hold an extraordinary EC meeting on 15 April in connection to the Civil Forum in Valencia in order to evaluate EMHRN work, EMHRN main functions; technical and political follow-up to EMHRN work, and visions for the future.

On the occasion of the all EC meetings, members met with representatives of national authorities, NGOs, and representatives of local human rights institutions.

### **3. OFFICE IN BRUSSELS**

In the past period, the EMHRN opened an office in Brussels. As mentioned above, the EC decided in Paris to open an antenna of the secretariat in Brussels following which the EMHRN announced a job vacancy. Out of 17 applicants, five were chosen for job interviews that took place in Paris on September 7, 2000.

In Stockholm September 2000, the EC chose the candidate with whom to negotiate a contract. Regrettably, the nominated candidate decided not to accept the conditions offered by the EMHRN. Therefore, the new EC re-announce the post and five new candidates (out of twelve) were interviewed in Paris on 31 May 2001.

At the EC meeting in Brussels, June 2001, it was decided to employ Ms Sandrine Grenier as the Brussels coordinator. Ms Grenier has demonstrated broad experience with the working of the EU Institutions and with human rights promotion.

On September 1, 2001, the EMHRN opened its office in Brussels. It has since then promoted the EMHRN and its members' policies in relation to the EU institutions, and it has begun systematising and expanding its information service to the members. Activities of the Brussels office are included in the report below.

### **4. REGIONAL MECHANISMS**

#### **A. Meda Programmes**

In July 2001, the EMHRN initiated a study on the human rights implications of the MEDA programmes and in the following months Iain Byrne, then-research fellow at the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and Charles Shamas, Senior Advisor, MATTIN Group Jerusalem carried out interviews in Brussels and desk studies of MEDA programming documents.

A draft report was presented at the training seminar organised by the EMHRN in Brussels, 7-9 November 2001. The report is divided into an introductory part discussing the role of the EMP in terms of democracy promotion as well as the relation between development and human rights. The

second part presents three main components of the MEDA Programs: Institution building and civil society; Economic and social alleviation; and Structural adjustment. Finally, the report discusses EU programming and implementing exercises from the perspective of regional and country strategies and regional and national indicative programmes.

The seminar entitled *The MEDA Programmes and the Human Rights Implications of the EU's Assistance to its Mediterranean Partners* gathered about seventy participants from the region and dealt with the following issues: Human Rights and Democracy Promotion in the Barcelona Process; Democracy Promotion and Economic Development: The Economic Chapter of the Barcelona Declaration; Presentation of the EMHRN Report on the Human Rights Implications of the MEDA Programmes - Background, Results and Perspectives; Civil Society Projects and Institutional support in the MEDA Programmes; MEDA Programmes and Economic and Social Cohesion; MEDA Programmes and Structural Adjustment; Incorporating Human Rights into Programmatic Aid - Other Models; The MEDA programmes and Human Rights: How to Influence Decision-Making Processes.

The participants positively evaluated the seminar. Taken together the research process and seminar seem to have left a clear fingerprint in EU Commission policies with regard to human rights and economic assistance in the Mediterranean region.

## **B. EuroMed Committee for the Barcelona Process**

The EMHRN did not launch a comprehensive paper on the idea of establishing an independent human rights committee under the Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process as the opportunity arose to present the concept during the EuroMed Conference on Access to Justice, Uppsala, April 2001 (see below). On this occasion the EMHRN did considerable efforts to promote the idea of an expert group by briefing the Commission and representatives of the Swedish, Belgium and Spanish government about the proposal.

The EMHRN recommendation was adopted in the main conclusions of the conference and the proposal has since then been circulated and presented at all relevant meetings EMHRN had with representatives of EMP institutions. Recently it was promoted in a letter to the ambassadors in charge of the Barcelona process on the preparation of the EMP Home and Justice Program (see list of press releases and letters) and in the letter addressed by the EMHRN to the Ministerial Meeting. The Communication of the Commission in preparation of Valencia and the Conclusions of the Valencia Ministerial meeting, April 2002, mention for the first time the possibility of a more structured dialogue on human rights.

## **C. The Euro-Mediterranean Inter-Parliamentary Forum (EMIPF)**

In the past period the EMIPF did not conclude with substantial initiatives regarding its future functioning and the EMHRN did not take particular initiatives in relation to the two gatherings of the EMIPF (8-9 February 2001; 8 November 2001). However, the EMHRN did succeed in having its proposal for a human rights committee under the EMIPF included in the EU Parliament resolution on the Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament to Prepare the Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers, Valencia 22-23 April, 2002.

## **D. Association Council Meetings**

The EMHRN published statements in relation to Association Council meetings between the EU and Morocco (9 October 2000), between the EU and Tunisia (30 March 2001), and the EU and Israel (20 November 2001) and it cooperated with international NGOs on several of these occasions. In addition, it took part in joint efforts of Brussels NGOs to influence EP debate on Egypt in relation to 'avis conforme' procedure (29 November 2001) (for more details, please see below under country issues).

In relation to the signing of Association Agreement between the EU and respectively Algeria and Lebanon, 23 April 2002, the EMHRN sponsored a press conference of the families of disappeared in Algeria and Lebanon that was organised by SOLIDA and le Collectif des Familles des Disparus en Algérie, Valencia 22 April, 2002.

## **E. Other initiatives**

- The EMHRN web site has been functional for two years. In the past period, the EMHRN forwarded approximately 100 news releases (once a week) to its now more than 800 subscribers. The EMHRN also launched an Arabic version of its web site on 1 April 2001 with the support of the Foreign Office, UK. The EMHRN Web site is today visited by **number** .
- In November 2000, the EMHRN published the Arab version of its *Guide to Human Rights in the Barcelona Process* which was widely distributed to civil society representatives in the Arab speaking part of the region (with the assistance of the CIHRS).
- The EMHRN promoted its recommendations at a number of meetings with EMP and EU representatives, at the monthly Human rights contact group meetings in Brussels, at the EU bi-annual human rights discussion forums, and at the EuroMesco Annual meeting (EuroMed Foreign Policy Network
- It held several bilateral meetings with other NGOs based in Brussels, in particular human rights NGOs, in order to co-ordinate actions and it developed contacts with Brussels based political Foundations.
- It met Commission's officials on numerous occasions prior and after to EIDHR (European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights) missions to priority Mediterranean countries

## **5. KEY INITIATIVES**

The EMHRN has closely followed and taken part in the civil society meetings organised in parallel to the EMP Foreign Minister meetings.

### **A. Civil Forum, Year 2000**

In particular, the EMHRN invested a good deal of its human resources in preparing the Civil Forum in Marseille, November 10-12, 2001.

The EMHRN was among the main organisers of Conference in Stuttgart, April 1999, on Civil Society and Human Rights in the Mediterranean which was the first of its kind in the EMP context that gathered representatives of independent NGOs from the whole region and also initiated dialogue with Ministers of the EMP.

In order to promote the Stuttgart *acquis*, the EMHRN decided to initiate cooperation with the FIDH in order to ensure that human rights also figured in a prominent place during the Forum of Marseille. For almost one year EMHRN representatives in Paris took part in the meetings of the NGO coordination committee.

Furthermore, the EMHRN sought to strengthen the preparatory phase of the Civil Forum by involving its members in a debate about the future of the Barcelona process.

Thus, the EMHRN organised meetings on the EMP at a number of relevant occasions:

- At LAW's conference on "Culture and Community in Jerusalem: Strategies to Protect and Promote Human Rights", 5-7 June 2000 in Jerusalem, a special session organised by the EMHRN was devoted to discussing human rights in Israel, the PNA and the Barcelona process and followed-up by an informal workshop on the same issue on June 8, 2000.
- On 5-7 October 2000, the Network organised a regional seminar on the Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region during which a special session was devoted to the Barcelona process and the Civil Forum (for details see below).
- On 18-21 October 2000, the EMHRN co-organised a conference entitled from *Stuttgart to Marseille* in Stuttgart (in cooperation with the city of Stuttgart, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Heinrich Böll

Foundation, etc.) in conclusion of which a letter was drafted that highlighted the *acquis* of the Stuttgart Civil Society Conferences. 2

- The EMHRN funded the participation of ten of its members in a human rights education conference organised by the CIHRS, *A 21st Century Agenda The Second International Conference of Human Rights Movement in the Arab World*, 13-16 October 2000, Cairo the results of which were fed into the debates of the general assembly (see below).

- The EMHRN also planned to organise a conference on women's rights in the Mediterranean in cooperation with the FIDH and entitled: *Women between physical and symbolic violence*. A preparatory meeting took place in Marseille, 6-7 July 2000, but the conference had to be cancelled due to the Al Aqsa Intifada. (See below).

- By organising its General Assembly shortly before the Civil Forum in Marseille, the EMHRN facilitated access of its members to the Civil Forum. In addition, it invited the major international human rights NGOs to participate in the publication of a joint report and press conference that dealt with the first five years of the Barcelona process. The report was published in English and French by the participating organisations and later translated by the EMHRN into Arabic.

## **B. Activities in Year 2001**

On 28 March the EMHRN (with the FIDH) met with Belgium ambassador to the Barcelona Process, to discuss the forthcoming civil forum under the Belgium Presidency. The EMHRN was informed about preparations taking place and the EMHRN offered to contribute to the preparations. As little substantial information subsequently was transmitted to the EMHRN about preparations and as many resources seemed to be needed to ensure a satisfactory role for human rights, the EMHRN decided to downscale its involvement in the event and to focus on the Civil Forum under the Spanish Presidency.

The EMHRN Brussels Coordinator attended the Brussels Forum for the EMHRN and several members were also present. On the same occasion, the report from the human rights and rule of law workshop from Marseille, 2000, was published in cooperation with the FIDH.

In addition, the EMHRN training seminar on the MEDA programmes was timed to take place in relation to the Ministerial meeting in November 2001. During the meeting, the participants forwarded a declaration to the Ministers about the human rights situation in the Mediterranean.

In April 2001, EMHRN representatives met with the Spanish ambassador to the Barcelona Process in Madrid, Spain, and with representatives of Spanish NGOs to discuss the planned civil forum under the Spanish presidency of the EU. They also discussed possible scenarios for the Civil Forum with NGO representatives. The initiative was followed-up under the EC meeting in Madrid and at a co-ordination meeting in Valencia on 19 December 2001.

## **C. Activities in year 2002**

Due to internal Spanish discussions preparations of the Civil Forum did not take off until a meeting on March 3, 2002 (followed-up by another meeting on 27 March, 2002) at which the EMHRN was represented. In the meantime the EMHRN had downscaled its expectations to the Civil Forum and mainly joined in to ensure a human rights input to the Forum, to strengthen contacts with Spanish NGOs and to take part in an initiative of EuroMed networks and organisations to review the Civil Forum format.

The final program of the Civil Forum became dominated by the situation in Palestine. The EMHRN in cooperation with the Amnesty International, Valencia, the FIDH, and Human Rights Globalisation organised a workshop on *The Human Rights Situation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region since Marseille, 2000: The consequences of the Al Aqsa Intifada and the 11th September* during which a 12

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2 'Giving Real Life and Meaning to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership'. Letter from Stuttgart to Marseille, adopted at the conference "From Stuttgart to Marseille", Stuttgart, 21-22 October 2000 (available on the EMHRN Web site).

point proposal for a declaration on Palestine was drafted and adopted in its integrity by Civil Forum participants.

On Friday 12 April, the EMHRN took part in a meeting with EuroMed networks, organisations, foundations and institutions who played major roles in organising past civil forums. It was agreed to ask the Commission to review the format of the Forums and to initiate informal dialogues on how to organise the Civil Forums in a more constructive way as well as strengthening civil society participation in the Barcelona process.

Finally, the EMHRN forwarded a comprehensive letter to the Foreign Ministers of the EMP describing its main human rights concerns and asking that human rights be on the top of the agenda of the Ministerial meeting.

#### **D. Dialogue with governments**

The EMHRN has systematically fed EMP governments with reports, press releases and news from the region. Information has also been addressed to the EU delegations, EU Parliamentarians and representatives of the Commission and the European Council. In addition, the EMHRN was represented at key conferences on Euro-Mediterranean issues.

In order to strengthen contacts with EMP governments, the EC decided that two of its annual meetings take place in EU countries having the up-coming Presidency of the EU while a third EC meeting takes place in a South Mediterranean country. In relation to the EC meetings, encounters are organised with government representatives and with local NGOs.

In the past period, the EMHRN had meetings with representatives of the Belgium, Danish, Egyptian, Finnish, French, Greek, Lebanese, Spanish and Swedish governments. Exploratory meetings took place with representatives of the Arab League's Human Rights Commission in order to investigate possibilities for cooperation. EMHRN mission members had contacts with Moroccan government officials in relation to legislation on public freedoms and the EMHRN memorandum on this legislation (Autumn 2001). Furthermore, letters were exchanged with Syrian authorities and Jordanian government. In addition meetings were organised with representatives of inter-governmental bodies such as the EU Commission and Council, and the UNHCR.

Finally, by co-organising the EMP conference on Access to Justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region the EMHRN cooperated on a major official EuroMed initiative with the Swedish, Danish and Finnish governments which was also sponsored by Algeria, Morocco and the Palestinian National Authorities.

However, work on a tool-box proposal did not set-off and the EMHRN did not launch a concerted series of dialogues with governments which is why an evaluation document was not produced for the AGM in Athens as promised in the Action Plan.

## **6. THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

### **A. Protection of Human Rights Defenders, including freedom of association and freedom of expression**

#### **1. Cooperation with international NGOs**

In January 2001, the EMHRN coordinated a meeting on Palestine with the participation of the leading international NGOs and its Israeli and Palestinian members. Participants<sup>3</sup> at the meeting discussed how to approach the conflict in terms of human rights and how to strategize and coordinate action. They discussed ways to change European perceptions of the situation Palestine and how to arrive at peace on the basis of a human rights approach. In addition, they listed a series of possible future

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<sup>3</sup> Sieglinde Weinrenner, EZE/Germany; Dianne Luping, LAW/Palestine; Nathalie Mevaliz, OMCT; Colm Regan, 80:20; Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN; Lotte Leicht, HRW; Hanny Megally, HRW; Liz Hodgkin, Amnesty International; Per Stadig, ICJ-Sweden; Arjan Le Fassed, ICCO; Jamil Dakwar, Adalah; Fiona McKay, KHRP; Fateh Azzam, Ford Foundation; Ron Dudkin, B'Tselem; Bahey El Din Hassan, CIHRS; Khader Shkirat, LAW; Marwan Bishara, American University, Paris.

activities. As such the meeting was constructive and timely organised to strengthen mutual understanding between human rights NGOs working with Palestine in a time of crisis.

In the past period, the EMRN also cooperated with international NGOs regarding missions and appeals on a number of occasions. For details of the activities, please see below and the list of meetings and press releases in annex.

## **2. EuroMed Foundation for Human Rights Defenders**

In November 2001, the EMHRN finalised a proposal for a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a EuroMed Human Rights Foundation aimed at providing readily available funds to cover 1. urgent actions when individual human rights defenders are in danger; 2. initiatives whose timing is crucial for their success; 3. basic costs and activities of organisations and groups that work in countries where explicit support by foreign donors may endanger NGOs; 4. activities by individuals or organisations who have not yet gained mainstream donor recognition; who do not have the capacity to maintain relations with these; or who work with issues that are too sensitive to receive main donors' support. The feasibility study project was approved by the donor (DANIDA) and then brought to a temporary halt caused by the change of the Danish government. In April, 2002, the EMHRN was able to resume the work in cooperation with DANIDA.

## **3. Trial monitoring network**

No progress was obtained but several NGOs working in the field described the project as viable and relevant.

## **4. Freedom of association**

On 5-7 October, 2000, the EMHRN in cooperation with the Association of Moroccan Democratic Women (ADFM), Espace Associatif (Morocco), and the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH) organised a seminar in Casablanca entitled *Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Towards Common Standards* in collaboration with the Arab Initiative on Freedom of Association (AIFA, coordinated by 'Adl and the Bunian Programme).

The seminar gathered 50 representatives of human rights organisations, development and women's NGOs, experts and representatives of international organisations and of governments.<sup>4</sup> The objective was to

- situate the question of freedom of association in a Euro-Mediterranean context and to review the current state of affairs in the light of the democratic principles and criteria that should guide legislation with respect to freedom of association.

- adopt a work programme and identify the means for promoting freedom of association in the context of the Barcelona process in synergy with ongoing initiatives, in particular the Action Plan and Declaration of Freedom of Association of Amman (see also previous annual report).

The seminar was opened by Minister of Human Rights, Mohammed Aujjar, and by a written address of High Commissioner Mary Robinson. Regretfully the events in Palestine, the start of the Al Aqsa Intifada, overshadowed some of the proceedings as it prevented several participants from attending the meeting. However, the seminar succeeded in drafting a rich and powerful declaration on freedom of association on the region. The Declaration was published and widely circulated in hard cover in October 2001.

In the follow-up to the seminar several contacts were made to examine feasibility of pursuing work on a regional level but these have so far not led to new initiatives within the framework of the EMHRN. Initiatives on a country level are outlined below.

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<sup>4</sup> The seminar was planned during a meeting in Morocco in June 2000 with the participation of Ghassan Moukheiber (ADDL, AIFA), Fadhel Ghedamsi (LTDH), Khader Shkirat (EMHRN, AIFA and LAW), Kamal Lahbib (Espace Associatif), Mohammed Al Ahyane (OMDH), Bahey El Din Hassan (EMHRN and CIHRS), Leïla Rhiwi (ADFM), Uli Vogt (AIFA and BUNIAN Program), Mohammed Mouaqit (OMDH), Abdelaziz Bennani (EMHRN), Rachid Filali (Espace Associatif and AIFA) and Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN).

## **5. Freedom of expression**

The EMHRN did not initiate activities on a regional level. Initiatives on a country level are outlined below.

## **6. Other actions**

The EMHRN conducted specific actions in defence of human rights activists in Egypt, Israel, Tunisia, Turkey, see below under country activities.

### **B. Justice, including equal access to justice**

For two years, the EMHRN worked on a proposal for a seminar that would gather academics, government representatives and NGOs for discussions of human rights related issues within the official framework of the EMP. The aim was to contribute to develop the human rights agenda of the EMP and to develop spaces for dialogue on this issue.

Preparations took place in cooperation with Nordic EU country representatives and the Faculty of Law at Uppsala University around the theme of Access to Justice.

The draft program and list of participants were finalised by the EMHRN in December 2000 in close cooperation with expert members of the Network and the Uppsala Law Faculty. In January, 2001 the initiative was approved by the EuroMed Committee for the Barcelona Process as being part of the official agenda of the EMP and a consultancy contract was subsequently drawn up between Uppsala University and the EMHRN.

The conference was also included as part of the joint programme for external relations in the field of Justice and Home Affairs of the Swedish, Belgian and Spanish Presidencies of the EU and of the Commission.

The conference took place shortly before the Euro-Mediterranean meeting of senior officials in Montpellier, 2-3 May 2001, and as such, an important aspect of the Uppsala conference became to provide input to the development of a regional justice and home affairs program as proposed in the Commission Communication, 'Reinvigorating the Barcelona Process', and in the 'Common Strategy for the Mediterranean' by the European Council.

A preliminary report was issued shortly after the conference recommending amongst other the establishment of an expert group under the EuroMed Committee for the Barcelona process to advise these on matters pertaining to human rights. The final report in Arabic, English and French was finalised in Autumn 2001 and was ready for release in late Spring 2002.

- In Madrid, the EC approved a proposal to establish a working group on Justice which subsequently met in Brussels on January 7, 2002.<sup>5</sup>

At the meeting it was decided to develop a concept paper to be presented at the General Assembly, to monitor the ongoing work of the EU under the Home and Justice Affairs, and to continue diffusion of the Uppsala recommendations. It was also decided to commission a survey report on justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region, which should be followed by a seminar.

On the basis of the WG meeting and the Uppsala recommendations and in preparation of a EuroMed expert meeting on 8 March, 2002, on a Regional Justice and Home Affairs Program the EMHRN forwarded a number of recommendations to the EMP foreign ministers, the Barcelona ambassadors, and the relevant members of the European Parliament, the EU Commission, the Secretariat Council and the Spanish permanent representation to the EU.

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<sup>5</sup> Abdelaziz Bennani, EMHRN; Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN; Ahmed Othmani, PRI; Georges Assaf (cancelled participation due to illness); Caroline Stainier, individual member, EMHRN; Mokhtar Trifi, LTDH; Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN.

### **C. Women's rights**

In early 2000, the Regional Council of Marseille proved willing to support a conference on women's rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region in preparation for the Civil Forum in Marseille. Subsequently, the EC decided to give financial priority to the holding of the conference and to co-operate with the FIDH and the French Human Rights League on the organisation.

On 5-7 July 2000, a preparatory meeting was held in Marseille in order to establish a program for the Conference. 6 The following themes were adopted: Forms of Violence against Women ('legal violence'; violence by state and non-state actors, and socio-economic violence); Women Rights in the Barcelona Process; International Instruments for the Protection of Women's Rights; Strategies for Inscribing Equality into the Barcelona Process and for Reinforcing the Capacity of NGOs to Influence and Benefit from the Barcelona Process.7

The Marseille conference preparations were co-ordinated at the FIDH office in Paris, and were more or less finalised when the Al Aqsa Intifada started and subsequently became necessary to postpone the event.

At the EC meeting in Beirut the postponed conference on Women's rights in the Mediterranean was discussed. It was agreed that the format and timing of the conference should be changed since the EMP summit already had taken place and it was suggested to inquire into the possibility of promoting the women's rights agenda according to another concept.

Subsequently, a project was designed to establish a report on the situation of women's rights in the region and on the role of the Barcelona process in this regard, and, on the basis of the report, organise a seminar in relation to the EMHRN General Assembly. The project was implemented from early 2002 by a research team composed of Rabea Naciri (Morocco) and Isis Nusair (with the support of the Heinrich Boell Foundation). They had a number of meetings with representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Belgian and Spanish governments and NGOs in February 2002, which constituted an opportunity to discuss concrete recommendations to the EMP and the EU for improving the situation of women in the region. A preliminary report was tested during a Women's workshop at the Civil Forum in Valencia (organised with the assistance of the EMHRN in cooperation with the Heinrich Boell Foundation).

### **D. Migrants, asylum seekers and human exchange**

In pursuance of the AGM workshop on migration and refugees in Marseille, the EC suggested at its meeting in Beirut to organise a seminar in order to take stock of the work done and to see what role the EMHRN should play. It was suggested that the Italian Refugee Council host such a meeting. During Spring and Summer proposals were exchanged about the purpose and format of a conference while funds were made available by the EMHRN and the Friulia-Venezia region in Italy.

On 27 September a preparatory meeting took place at the Italian Refugee Council in Rome. 8 Participants agreed on an action oriented format to the conference which would focus on strategies

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6 The following took part in the preparatory meeting Nouria Ouali, ULB, Belgium; Roseline Tiset and Alain Fourest, LDH, France; Sa'eda Kilani, Arab Archives Institute, Jordan; Tania Helou, Lebanese NGO Forum, Lebanon; Rabea Naciri, ADFM, Morocco; Alya Chammari, Collectif 95 - Maghreb Egalité, Tunisia; Bochra Bel Hadj Hmida, ATFD, Tunisia; Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International; Dalila Romdhane, PRI; Odile Sidem-Poulain and Sara Guillet, FIDH; Driss El Yazami, FIDH and EMHRN; Kamel Jendoubi and Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN.

7 In relation to the planned conference and in order to promote synergies among regional initiatives, Marit Floe Joergensen, EMHRN information officer, and Anna Bozzo, individual member of the EMHRN took part a conference organised by the Bruno Kreisky Forum (a member of the EMHRN) on 'Peace and Change in the Euro-Mediterranean – Women Taking Action' October 6-9, 2000, Vienna.

8 With the participation of Christopher Hein and Maria De Donato, Italian Refugee Council, Eva Norstroem and Nazmi Gür, EC members, Philip Rudge, individual member of the EMHRN, and Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN.

and methodology and include a dialogue between representatives of international and inter-governmental organisations and NGOs.

A final preparatory meeting took place in Trieste on 19 December, 2001, 9 and the conference took place 18-19 January, 2002, in Trieste, under the High Patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and also in cooperation with the MEDA Institute in Trieste).

The conference produced a report that is printed in annex. However, following participants' comments on the announcement of the creation of an Observatory on migration and refugees made during the Conference, the issue was therefore raised during the Executive Committee meeting in Athens. It was decided to finalize the evaluation report of the conference after the Executive Committee extraordinary meeting in Valencia, 15 April 2002.

In the meantime, the EC forwarded a letter to the Italian Refugee Council (CIR) in which it acknowledged cooperation with the CIR while protesting against the announcement of the establishment of an Observatory on Migration and Refugees at a press conference during the conference without any prior consultation. On 5 April 2002, The Italian Refugee Council (CIR) forwarded a letter to all members of the EMHRN including a copy of the letter from the EC. In the letter the CIR contests the way the EC handled follow-up to the conference as well as the EC understanding of how the Observatory was announced. All correspondence regarding the matter is reprinted in Annex.

- In the past period, the EMHRN also worked substantially on the situation of non-Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (see below).

#### **E. Human rights education (HRE)**

On 28-30 April, 2000, a first workshop on HRE was organised within the framework of the EMHRN (Bray, Ireland).

Based on an exchange of experience, participants from 80:20; Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, UK; CIHRS, Egypt; Arab Institute for Human Rights, Tunisia; and the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights, Lebanon, agreed on a draft policy paper to be submitted for discussion and approval at the AGM in Marseille.

The Bray meeting was followed-up by a workshop at the General Assembly in Carry Le Rouet and the Second Working Group meeting took place in Beirut May 18-20, 2001. 10

The purpose of the latter was to formally set up the EMHRN Working Group on HRE; to discuss and agree on an initial structure and working process for the group; to debate and agree on a work agenda to learn from each other in a more structured.

Among the main future initiatives discussed were the production of a human rights reader; a Summer School; a Policy Document; an improved strategy for dissemination of documents; the development of a human rights education web site; a research project on current HRE practices in the region, and the need to develop a fundraising strategy for the human rights education agenda of the Network (a report from the meeting is available at the secretariat). A substantial part of the work is about to be finalised.

- In October, 2000, the EMHRN sponsored the participation of ten EMHRN members in the Cairo Conference on Human rights education and dissemination: 21st Century Agenda (organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies). The conference was a follow-up to the First International Conference of the Human Rights Movement in the Arab World that was successfully arranged by the CIHRS in co-operation with the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights in April 1999. Among the

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9 With the participation of Christopher Hein and CIR staff, Eva Norstroem and Marc Schade-Poulsen.

10 With the participation of Ahmed Karaoud – Arab institute for Human Rights, Tunis; Bahey El Din Hassan, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Wa'il Kheir and Lina Osserian Beydoun – Foundation for Human and humanitarian Rights Lebanon; Marc Schade-Poulsen EMHRN Secretariat, Colm Regan, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World, Ireland, and Diego Bang, Danish Centre for Human Rights.

issues discussed were the role of the media and art in HRE; the contribution of NGOs and governments to the field; the impact of dominant political culture and of religion on HRE.

- In July 2001, a subgroup of the HRE WG11 met in Copenhagen for a one day meeting to discuss how to build-up the EMHRN web site from an educational point of view. The meeting concluded with a substantive proposal and implementation is ongoing. In addition, an annotated guide to Palestinian Web Sites is about to be finalised for the EMHRN by 80:20.

- In August, 2000 and 2001, the EMHRN sponsored the holding of a Summer School on human rights for Algerian university youth organised by the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (see below). T

- The EMHRN has regularly recommended to the Danish Centre for Human Rights that members of the Network attend the DCHR bi-annual training courses on human rights. In the past period, representatives of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, the Beirut Bar Association, the Committee for the Defence of Freedoms in Syria, the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights in Lebanon, LAW, Palestine, and the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights have attended the training courses.

#### **F. Self-determination and the right of refugees**

- On 18-25 September, 2000, the EMHRN sent a mission to Lebanon and Jordan with the mandate to evaluate the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan in the light of international standards for human rights and refugee protection and to compare the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan with the situation of other refugee groups.

The mission was organised in cooperation with EMHRN members in Lebanon and Jordan and the mission team was composed of Maria de Donato, Head of Legal Department, Italian Refugee Council, and Mohammed Tahri, Lawyer and individual member of the EMHRN.

The report was discussed at the conference on Palestinian Refugees in Casablanca, February 2001, (see below) and later published on the occasion of the International Refugee Day, June 2001.

- The EMHRN sponsored the participation of 10 members in the Third International Conference of the Human Rights Movement in the Arab World on *The Future of Palestinian Refugees under the Current Peace Process*, Rabat 10-12 February, 2001.

About fifty independent and official Arab and international experts concerned with the refugee issue attended the conference. They came from different concerned Arab and foreign countries representing governmental and non-governmental sectors. NGOs representatives included human rights groups, research centres and institutions working on Palestinian refugees. This was in addition to official representatives of the Palestinian National Authority and some refugee-hosting states.

The papers established by Arab scholars and experts that were presented in the conference covered different aspects of the refugees' problems. They gave special attention to hot issues such as the 'right to return' exploring possibilities of its realisation. The conference adopted the Rabat Declaration on the Rights of Palestinian Refugees. The conference received wide media coverage. Moroccan dailies, Egyptian and Palestinian newspapers also covered the deliberations; in addition to Arab dailies based in London i.e. Al Hayat and El Quds Al Arabi.

For other activities, see under Palestine and Lebanon.

#### **G. Economic, social and cultural rights**

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11 Diego Bang (DCHR), Colm Regan and Sean Daly (80 :20 Educating for a Better World), Naceur Kefi (Arab Institute for Human Rights), Marc Schade Poulsen and Marit Floe Jorgensen participated in a meeting on developing a comprehensive website on human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

In November 2001 the EMHRN successfully conducted a training seminar in Brussels on the human rights implication of the MEDA programmes for seventy participants, i.e. EMHRN members, EU Commission representatives, etc. (see above). The EMHRN report on the issue is forthcoming.

## **7. COUNTRY ISSUES**

### **A. Algeria**

In August 2000, the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights organised a Summer University in Tizirt-Sur-Mer, Algeria. Between 45 and 60 persons, mainly students from the universities of Tizi-Ouzou, Bejaia, Setif, Bordj-Bou-Areridj, Bouira and Boumerdes, attended the course, which lasted ten days beginning on 20 August.

Experts and human rights activists gave lectures on the relation between universality and cultural specificity; human rights and structural adjustment; globalisation and economic and social rights; constitutionalism, democratic culture and rule of law; the media and human rights; corruption and globalisation; and human rights in the Barcelona process. The seminar was an occasion for debates among the youth present. It was welcomed by the heads of the local and regional council and publicised in the local press.

The project was sponsored by the EMHRN and was successfully repeated in August 2001 with fifty participants, where also two members of the Tunisian League for Human Rights, Salah Zghidi and Anouar Kousri lectured. The themes of the Summer School included the international human rights norms and instruments, the role of NGOs in the promotion of human rights, international justice and human rights, the Barcelona process, and the implementation of human rights in Algeria.

- In March, 2002, representatives of the EMHRN, FIDH, and Amnesty International met with the cabinet of Commissioner Patten, and discussed the human rights situation in Algeria and the setting in motion of the human rights clause of the Association Agreements.

- In April 2002, the EMHRN sponsored a press conference on the situation of the disappeared in relation to the signing of the Association Agreement between the EU and Algeria, Valencia (see above).

Furthermore, the signing of the agreement was among the main issues raised by the EMHRN in its letter to the Foreign ministers prior to the Ministerial meeting.

### **B. Egypt**

- In May 2001, the EMHRN prepared a mission to Egypt in relation to the trial against Nawal El Saadawi that took place on 17-21 June 2001, The team was composed of Caroline Stainier and Boschra Ben Hamida.<sup>12</sup>

- During the plenary sessions of 28-29 November 2001, the European Parliament gave its assent on concluding an Association Agreement between the EU and Egypt. To be legally valid, the Association Agreement between the EU and Egypt, signed on June 25 2001, had to be approved by the European Parliament. Human rights NGOs, such as the EMHRN, put pressure on the parliamentarians during all of November recalling the grave human rights violations in Egypt demanding that the EU acts strongly towards the Egyptian authorities so that the 'human rights clause' in these Agreements will not go unheeded.

- The EMHRN also followed the case of Dr. Saed Eddin Ibrahim and issued several joint letters and statements with international NGOs in the report period (please, see the list of press releases in annex).

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<sup>12</sup> Regretfully, the mission team was not able to finalize its report.

### C. Israel

- On the occasion of the EU- Israel Association Committee Meeting, 21.5.2001, the EMHRN published an open letter asking the EU to use the article 2 of the association agreement to push Israel towards compliance with its human rights obligations.

Later, on the occasion of the EU-Israel Association Council meeting, 20 November 2001, the EMHRN forwarded an open letter to the EU institutions recommending steps towards suspension of the Agreement. On the same occasion it had meetings with EU Officials. The letter was followed-up by a press release (11 April 2002) calling for a suspension of the Agreement.

- The EMHRN sent Mr Preben Wilhjelm, former Danish MP, to observe the first hearing in two cases against Mr Azmi Bishara (MK) on 10 December 2001 and on 27 February 2002. The Knesset voted in favour of the lifting of Bishara's parliamentary immunity. He was then charged with 'assisting to illegal exit from the country' for organising trips for elderly Palestinians to visit their relatives in Syria and for supporting a 'terrorist organisation' for some speeches he made concerning the Israeli occupation.

- On March 2, 2002, the EMHRN sent a letter to the Israeli Minister of Defence, Mr Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, and Israeli Minister of Internal Security concerning the harsh harassment of the EMHRN board member, Khader Shkirat and his family.

### D. Jordan

The EMHRN with Ms Sa'eda Kilani, individual member, worked on producing a new comprehensive report on press freedoms in the country following dialogue meetings between the EMHRN and the Jordanian government in January 2000. A 120 pages draft report was finalised in May 2001 (in English and Arabic) and forwarded to relevant government authorities in Jordan who were asked to comment on the report before publication. Following an exchange of letter, the EMHRN decided to make the report public in relation to the entering into force of the Association Agreement between the EU and Jordan on 1 May, 2002.

### E. Lebanon

The executive committee convened for the first time in Beirut, 2-3 February, 2001. It was an occasion to meet representatives of organisations working on the question of Palestinian and non-Palestinian refugees, and meetings were repeated during the HRE WG meeting in May 2001.

During this period, the EMHRN received information that hundreds of non-Palestinian refugees and asylum seekers were subject to arrest and torture during detention in Lebanon. It was also alleged that more than 300 asylum seekers had been forcibly deported to their country of origin since September 2000, after having been arrested and detained on charges of clandestine entry and illegal residence in Lebanon. According to EMHRN's information, the co-operation between the UNHCR Regional Office in Beirut and the Lebanese authorities had undergone negative changes and the gentlemen's agreement of 1963, which granted UNHCR's presence in the country and its possibility to work, had *de facto* ceased to exist.

In a first step to acquire more information about the refugees' situation, the EMHRN contacted the responsible Lebanese authorities. It sent letters of concern, urging them to respect the international principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits forcible return to countries where refugees face torture or persecution.

As sources only little later reported that detainees were still deported and that more refugees had been arrested by the General Security, the EMHRN decided to send a mission to Lebanon in order to investigate the circumstances and to be able to act/intervene more effectively. 13

Following the mission (that took place on 5-12 May, 2001) the EMHRN sent a preliminary report to the UNHCR office headquarters in Geneva emphasising the lack of co-operation between the two bodies

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13 The mission was composed of Ms Anna Maija Toukkari, Senior Lawyer, Finnish Refugee Advice Center; Ms Cornelia Gunnensen, Swedish Refugee Council; and Mr Slaheddine Ourimi, Lawyer, Tunisian League for Human Rights.

responsible for refugees in Lebanon. The report was followed-up by a visit of EMHRN delegates to the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva .

As an outcome of the action the UNHCR sent a delegate to Beirut, who was charged with gaining an overview of the situation at the UNHCR Regional Office and with helping remedy on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers. Development in this direction has been ongoing since then.

- During the whole period the EMHRN closely monitored the situation of refugees in Lebanon and had several letters exchanged with the authorities. The question was also brought-up at a press conference jointly organised with the FIDH in Beirut, on the occasion of the Regional Seminar on the Financing of Human Rights Organisations, 19-22 September 2001.

- In relation to the mission the EMHRN also succeeded in providing support for the capacity building of for the Ad-Hoc Committee for Non-Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

## **F. Morocco**

- As mentioned above, the EMHRN organised a seminar on freedom of association, 5-7 October 2000 which preceded the Autumn parliamentary session in Morocco where the law on Public Freedoms was scheduled to be discussed.

- In October 2000, the EMHRN also published a memorandum on the occasion of the first Association Council between Morocco and the EU, in which progress and major problems relating to the human rights situation were high-lighted, including concerns about the increase of racist incidents in the EU with regard to Moroccan migrants.

- In May 2001, when information circulated that the law project was tabled for the new Parliamentary session, the EMHRN sent a mission to Morocco composed of Lawyer George Assaf and Christine Merkel both members of the EMHRN in order to inquire into the current situation and law reform in progress. The mission was coordinated with local EMHRN members, OMDH, ADFM and Espace Associatif. On the basis of the mission findings and observing further development in Morocco, the EMHRN published a statement on the legal guarantees in relation to the public liberties in Morocco to the Moroccan government on November 15, 2001, ahead of parliamentary debates on a new law on public liberties.

- In the report period the EMHRN issued several press release concerning public freedoms in Morocco and in relation to cases of arrests of individuals ( see list of press releases) and it sponsored a mission of a CNLT member's visit to Morocco in relation to the trial against human rights activists following a peaceful demonstration 9 December.

## **G. Palestine**

- Following the outbreak of the Al Aqsa Intifada, the EMHRN co-organised a mission to the Occupied Territories in cooperation with ICJ-Sweden and the FIDH (4-8 October 2000). The mission was composed of Judge Sven Erik Nilsson, Sweden for the ICJ, Hubert Prevot, France, for the FIDH and Stefan Lütgenau, Austria and Iain Byrne, UK, for the EMHRN. The mission team issued a statement after completion of the mission that was approved by both Israeli and Palestinian EMHRN members.

- The mission was followed-up by a meeting in Brussels, 19-20 January 2001 in which Btselem, Adalah and LAW took part together with EMHRN EC members, representatives of the major international human rights NGOs (see above).The EMHRN funded members' participation in the meeting and organised the practical event with the assistance of its local member, Jeunesse Maghrébine.

- In April, 2001, during the sitting of the Human Rights Commission the EMHRN took part in advocacy meetings in Geneva in support of its Palestinian members.

- Following the decision by the EC to establish a working group on Palestine, the EMHRN convened the first meeting with its Israeli and Palestinian members, as well as European members and international partners in Geneva, December 2-3, 2001.<sup>14</sup> The aim was to strengthen focus, develop

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<sup>14</sup> The participants were Ghassan Abdallah (PHRO, Lebanon), Salpy Eskidjian (World Council of Churches, Switzerland), Sandrine Grenier (EMHRN coordinator in Brussels), Bahey El-Din Hassan (CIHRS, Egypt),

synergies and improve co-ordination of actions. It was decided to continue the work of the working group and to expand it within the overall framework of implementing the 4th Geneva Convention. Khader Shkirat was elected convenor of the group and became responsible for developing a concept paper.

The meeting was followed-up in Geneva 23-24 March, 2002, where the participants 15 discussed and agreed on the concept paper; presented actions undertaken since the last meeting as well as current plans; discussed the issue of missions and monitoring; Networking and strengthening impact of WG meetings; Planning and time-lines; and a message to be forwarded to the EuroMed governments. In follow-up to the meeting, the EMHRN undertook substantial efforts to raise funds for a full-time coordinator to the group.

- In December 2001 it initiated dialogue with a Private Foundation to establish a feasibility study for an International Tribunal on the Situation in Palestine. The project is planned to be implemented during Summer 2002.

- From 18 February to 1 March 2002, the EMHRN, in co-operation with the Danish Centre for Human Rights, Dan Church Aid (DCA) and International Medical Co-operation Committee, organised a training course for medical students going to the West Bank for six months to assist the local staff at DCA health projects and to observe the situation at check points. Representatives of B'Tselem and LAW, the EMHRN Secretariat assisted in the course which focussed on practical training on monitoring human rights violations.

## **H. Syria**

The EMHRN has been in regular contact with Aktham Naisse, President of the Committee for the Defence of Freedoms in Syria. In June, 2000, it sent a delegation<sup>16</sup> in order to extend its support to the human rights defenders in Syria and to discuss how the EMHRN could contribute to the strengthening of CDF's work. Another meeting with the CDF was held in Beirut in February 2001 on the occasion of the EMHRN EC meeting.

Cooperation with the CDF has resulted in capacity support to CDF activities in Syria. For this purpose, the EMHRN and CDF Syria agreed to cooperate on the development of its infrastructure; training courses and publications. Cooperation has increased CDF visibility in Syria.

## **I. Tunisia**

- In October 2000 on the occasion of the seminar on freedom of association the EMHRN Tunisian human rights defenders from inside and outside the country met in Casablanca. The purpose was to settle disagreements and prepare the 5th congress of the Tunisian Human Rights League. The President of the EMHRN later attended the conference and subsequently drafted a report on the conference proceedings which testifies to correct election procedures of the executive bodies of the LTDH.

- Between 15 and 19 December, 2000, the EMHRN, in cooperation with the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP) sent a mission

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Giovanna Lelli (Aprodev, Belgium), Stefan Luetgenau (Bruno Kreisky Foundation, Austria), Jessica Montell (B'Tselem, Israel), Eva Norstroem (Swedish Refugee Council, Sweden), Marc Schade-Poulsen (EMHRN), Charles Shamas (MATTIN group, Palestine), Khader Shkirat (LAW, Palestine), Raji Sourani (PCHR, Palestine), Per Stadig (Lawyer, Sweden).

15 Stefan Luetgenau, Bruno Kreisky Foundation ; Giovanna Lelli, Aprodev ; Hannah Friedman, Public Committee Against Torture (absent) ; Eva Norstroem, Swedish Refugee Council ; Per Stadig, ICJ-Sweden; Ron Dudai, B'Tselem ; Khader Shkirat, LAW ; Marc Schade-Poulsen, EMHRN ; Marit Floe Jorgensen, EMHRN ; Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN ; Mohammed Zeidan, Arab Association for Human Rights ; Hassan Jabareen, Adalah ; Bahey El Din Hassan, CIHRS; Ghassan Abdallah, Palestinian Human Rights Organisation; Mireille Mendez France, International Association of Democratic Lawyers ; Charles Shamas, Mattin Group; Vicki Metcalfe / Jaaber, PCHR Gaza ; Randa Siniara, Al Haq ; Salpy Eskidjan, World Council of Churches ; Alexandros Karides, World Council of Churches ; Ghada Zeidan, LAW ; Liz Hodgkin, Amnesty International ; Nathalie Mivelaz, OMCT ; Hanny Megally, Human Rights Watch ; Dianne Luping, LAW.

16 Composed of Kamel Jendoubi and Marit Floe Joergensen.

to Tunisia<sup>17</sup> with the mandate to observe the trial of Dr. Moncef Marzouki (16.12.2000), spokes person of the Conseil National des Libertés en Tunisie (CNLT) and of Mr Najib Husni (18.12.2000), member of the CNLT. Dr Marzouki was accused of belonging to an illegal organisation (CNLT), disseminating false information, disrupting public order, disrupting justice, dissemination of papers of a nature to disrupt public order and inciting citizens to act contrary to the laws of the state, risking 15 years imprisonment.

- Between 24 and 31 December, 2001 The EMHRN, the KHRP, and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders followed-up on the previous mission by sending a new team on a mission to Tunisia<sup>18</sup> to observe the adjourned trial of Dr. Marzouki (31.12.2000) and the trial of the LTDH (25.12.2000). It also sponsored the participation of Mr Oualladi, President of the OMDH.

Later between 28 and 31 January, 2001, the EMHRN, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the KHRP sent a mission to Tunisia<sup>19</sup> to observe the adjourned trial of the LTDH.

A report from these three missions was issued in April 2001 and entitled *Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association and Unfair Trials in Tunisia: A report of the trials of Dr Moncef Marzouki, Attorney Nejib Hosni and the Tunisian League for Human Rights*.

- On 5-8 July 2001, the EMHRN sent a mission to Tunisia composed of Abdelaziz Bennani and Anna Bozzo in relation to Sihem Ben Sedrine's imprisonment and the appeal trial of Dr Moncef Marzouki. In this connection it coordinated the collecting of signatories for an appeal launched by the ATFD with the help of Anne Rasmussen, Denmark, and Anna Bozzo, Italy.

- On 2 February 2002, the EMHRN sent a new mission to Tunisia<sup>20</sup> to observe the first trial of Hama Hammami and his three colleagues, Abdeljabbar Madouri, Samir Taamallah, Ammar Amroussia. The four defendants were arrested during the trial and the appeal trial was scheduled for March 9 which Ms Anna Bozzo, attended. Ms Bozzo was also present at the trial on 30 March together with Mr Nigel Wray, Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales.

- Sihem Ben Sedrine, Spokesperson of the Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie, has been nominated for the Sakharov price of the European Parliament, and, in this capacity, she was invited to the European Parliament, where she had the opportunity to meet the president of the European Parliament, several presidents of the political groups and other delegates, as well as the representatives of the European Commission. She returned to Brussels in February to participate in a hearing organised by the Women's Rights Commission of the European Parliament, and, with assistance of the EMHRN, met with representatives of the European institutions.

- Radia Nasraoui, Tunisian lawyer, accompanied by the EMHRN, met representatives of the European institutions on 19 March 2002 and exchanged views with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

- Besides these activities, the EMHRN supported the Caravan for Human Rights in Spring 2001 (organised amongst other at the initiative of the CRLDHT) and which highlighted the human rights situation in Tunisia during a number of events in Geneva, Paris and Brussels.

- It organised a round-trip to Denmark, Norway and Sweden for Omar Mestiri, CNLT, and provided small scale financial support to Tunisian human rights defenders. Finally it issued a series of press releases and statements in its own name and in cooperation with international organisations, amongst other on the occasion of the Association Council Meeting between the EU and Tunisia on 29 March 2001 (for EMHRN press releases, please see annexe).

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17 Composed of Andrea Hopkins, barrister and legal officer at KHRP; Christopher Jacobs, barrister, representing International Union of Advocats; Bill McGiven, barrister, representing Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, and Rajesh Rai, barrister.

18 Composed of Mr. Nigel Wray, barrister, representing Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and Mr Eric Plouvier, lawyer from France.

19 Composed of Ms Andrea Hopkins, barrister and legal officer at KHRP barrister, representing Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and Mr Eric Plouvier, lawyer from France.

20 Composed of Mr Chris Jacobs, lawyer, Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, and Mr Thierry Brunet, Lawyer, Marseille Bar.

## J. Turkey

On February 3, 2000, former judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Mr Isi Foighel attended the hearing of the State Security Court of Ankara on 3 February, 2000, against the Secretary General of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD), Nazmi Gür, member of the EMHRN.

Nazmi Gür was charged with the crime of assisting organisation of an armed gang after publishing an article entitled 'It is not hard to reach peace' on World Peace Day, 1 September, 1999, and faced between 3 and 7,5 years imprisonment for calling for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question and 15 years armed conflict in south east Turkey. 21

Nazmi Gür was acquitted because of lack of 'adequate and convincing evidence'. The EMHRN later supported the publication of the report 'Peace is not Difficult: Observing the Trial of Nazmi Gür', that was published in co-operation with the Kurdish Human Rights Project, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, the Norwegian Bar Association, and the Danish Centre for Human Rights on 16 May, 2000.

- In Summer, 2000, the EMHRN facilitated IHD access to financial support for the English translation of its Legislative Screening of Turkish legislation relevant to Turkey's compliance with the Copenhagen Political Criteria for adherence to the EU.

As a follow-up to the publication it funded a mission of the IHD to Brussels in October 2000 composed of Akin Birdal, Hüsnü Undül and Nazmi Gür. The purpose was to meet representatives of the EU institutions and present the IHD report. The meetings and a press conference were organised in cooperation with associate member organisations in Brussels and they were widely publicised in Turkey.

- On 22 March 2001 EMHRN Executive Director, attended the hearing against the IHD Ankara branch that was accused of helping a terrorist organisation for its role in documenting the prison death fasts. During the stay he had meetings with IHD representatives to discuss cooperation with the EMHRN as well as with other human rights defenders.

- From May 5 to 10, 2001 the EMHRN organised a mission to Turkey in cooperation with the Kurdish Human Rights Project and the OMCT in relation to reports about increased repression of human rights defenders and the growing number of number of death fasts among political prisoners. During the mission, team members were able to meet with Turkish non-governmental organisations, families of political prisoners, and the government authorities. The mission issued a preliminary report upon its return insisting on the urgency of a genuine reform of the legal and penitentiary system by the Turkish authorities in response to the situation prevailing in the prisons.

On 22 October, 2001, the mission report 'F-type prisons crisis and the repression of human rights defenders in Turkey' from the fact-finding mission was published.

## 8. OTHER INITIATIVES

- The EMHRN with the FIDH sponsored a symposium on *Human Rights and Terrorism*, which was organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in Cairo 27-28 January 2002. Key human rights organisations attended the meeting following which a report was issued and entitled Towards A Universal Approach for Protecting Human Rights and Combating Terrorism.

- The EMHRN sent a letter in support of the Danish Centre for Human Rights to the Danish Prime Minister and the Danish Foreign Minister, 8 February 20002. Since then the independence of the Centre has been ensured according to the Paris principles for national human rights institutions.

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21 The mission was co-ordinated with the Kurdish Human Rights Project, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, the Norwegian Bar Association, the Danish Centre for Human Rights and ICJ-Denmark, who also sent international trial observers to the hearing.

## **9. NEW MEMBERS**

In the past period the EC has decided to propose the following new members to the GA:

Regular members:

ADALAH, Israel;

Public Committee Against Torture, Israel;

SOLIDA, France-Lebanon;

Rights and Freedom Association (Northern Cyprus),

International Association for the Protection of Human Rights in Cyprus (Southern Cyprus).

Associate member:

ACSUR Las Segovias — Association for Co-operation with the South (Spain)

As individual member:

Caroline Stainier, Lawyer, Belgium;

Per Stadig, Laywer (Sweden)

The EMHRN recommends to cancel membership of the following organisations who ceased meaningful activities or exchange with the EMHRN:

Migrants Forum of the EU.

## **10. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

### **A. Management group**

The Management Group of the EMHRN met in Copenhagen 12 September 2001, where it examined the financial situation of the EMHRN, the staff situation and suggested to strengthen the political role of the EC by delegating more of the executive power to the MG and the executive director.

### **B. By-laws**

The EC drafted a paper that describes the internal functioning of the EMHRN. The paper will be translated into a by-law proposal after the AGM (see annex )

### **C. Auditing and administrative cooperation**

In February 2000 the EMHRN formally became an independent NGO in relation to the Danish Authorities. On that occasion it established a cooperation agreement with the Danish Centre for Human Rights. The agreement details services and costs related to DCHR administrative assistance to the EMHRN: rent, computer assistance, wage management, book keeping, balances, assistance to auditors, telephone and reception, cleaning, etc. Following its independent status, the EMHRN is now audited by a private auditing company, at present PriceWaterHouseCoopers. EMHRN auditing and accounting procedures were established and finalised in the period between 1 June 2001 and 1 May 2002.

### **D. The Treasurer**

Following incidents with individual personalities in the Network the treasurer did not participate in the past three executive committee meeting and did not give notice of his absence. In the same period he ceased relevant communication with the executive bodies of the Network. Therefore, the CE is forced to take note of these neglects by the treasurer and asks permission of the General Assembly to nominate an interim treasurer from its midst in period until the next General Assembly.

## **E. Funding**

In the past period the Executive Director had meetings with Foreign Office representatives in the Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, with SIDA, NOVIB, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Ford Foundations as well as with various Danish private donors in order to develop relations and explore funding opportunities.

## **F. New office facilities**

In the past period, the EMHRN moved twice to new facilities. From 1 November 2000 to 1 April, 2001, it was housed in an Annex of the Danish Centre for Human Rights, Nørre Søgade 38, Copenhagen. On 1 April, 2001 it joined the Danish Centre for Human Rights when it moved to Wilders Plads 8H, DK-1403 Copenhagen K.

## **G. Staff**

The EMHRN Secretariat has during the entire period been staffed by an executive director and an information officer.

The executive director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, is responsible for contacts to the EC, EC meetings, the General Assembly, fund raising, representation, content of reports, program development and mission concepts, annual narrative and financial reports, coordination of workshops, staff management and development, etc.

The information officer, Marit Floe Joergensen, is in charge of maintaining the EMHRN Website in three languages, writing news letters to members, writing minutes from EC meetings, the organisation of missions, development of thematic priorities, training, proof reading and publication of reports.

On October 2000 a full time administrative coordinator, Sannie Nielsen, was employed with the main task of setting-up meetings, seminars, managing travel accounting, book keeping, filing, correspondence, ad hoc translations, contact to translators, and distribution of reports.

From September 2001 the EMHRN employed a full-time coordinator in Brussels, Sandrine Grenier, with the main task to: represent and implement the policy of the EMHRN and its members in relation to the institutions and representatives of the EU and the EMP; inform EMHRN members about the policies and development of the institutions of the EU and the EMP; facilitate access of EMHRN members to the institutions of the EU and the EMP; and maintain close contact to other organisations in Brussels.

The EMHRN have in report period employed two part-time student (15 hours per week), one in charge of typing news bulletin in French and English, forwarding of electronic news bulletin and the faxing of news to members who do not have access to the Internet: Until 31 December, 2001, Olivier Mukarji. From 1 January 2002, Lea Arentoft. The other student provides ad hoc assistance. Until 31 December 2000, Louise Johansen. From 1 June 2001 to 31 December 2001, Marie Pade Lange. From 1 January, 2002, Stine Berner.

The following interns have assisted the EMHRN. Laurence Le Moing, 1 November 2000 to 31 January 2001. Anne Christine Heck, 16 July to 23 August 2001. Rasmus Boserup, 1 August to 6 September 2001. Cornelia Seeger, 3 August to 28 September. David Smith, 3 September to 16 November 2001.

Translations are made outside the secretariat while proof reading is done by the secretariat staff.

The Secretariat staff held internal working days 11 April, 27 June, 12 July 2001, 11 December 2001 and 10 April 2002 in order to strengthen internal working procedures.

## **H. Acknowledgments**

The EMHRN is grateful to the support and assistance it received from members and associates in the past period all done on a voluntary basis and without which the network had not succeeded to develop its work and mission.

The EMHRN also thanks for the support received by the Coordination Sud, DANIDA; The EU Commission; the Ford Foundation; Foreign Office, UK; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Heinrich Boell Stiftung; NOVIB, the Peace Foundation; the Plum Foundation; and the International Foundation for Solidarity.

## **ANNEX 1: PRESS RELEASES, OPEN LETTERS AND DECLARATIONS**

30.4.2002: EMHRN releases book-report on press freedoms in Jordan.

22.4.2002: The Human rights situation in the Euro-Mediterranean region: The impact of 11th September and the al-Aqsa Intifada.

19.4.2002: Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial meeting in Valencia: The EMHRN requests that human rights are put on the top of the agenda.

11.04.02: EMHRN Press statement calling for the suspension of the Association agreement with Israel.

5.3.2002: Euro-Mediterranean Human Right Network's Recommendations regarding the "Regional Program within the field of Justice and Home Affairs".

12.2.2002: The EMHRN issued a joint statement with Amnesty International, Avocats sans frontières, Belgium; Human Rights Watch, and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH and OMCT); regarding the detention of Mustapha Adib in Morocco.

28.1.2002: Trading human rights for security, Press release on the occasion of the EU-Tunisia Association Council Meeting took place 29 January 2002, EMHRN and the FIDH, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, World Organisation Against Torture, and Reporters Without Borders,

25.1.2002: Letter of the EMHRN concerning justice and freedom of expression in Tunisia to the EU Foreign Ministers, Chris Patten and Javier Solana, as well as the Tunisian government.

21.1.2002: The EMHRN issued a press release regarding the recent Israeli demolitions of houses in the Gaza strip.

7.12.2001: The EMHRN issued a press release on its concern about public freedoms and the recent judgement against Ali Lamrabat, Morocco.

15.11.2001: The EMHRN published a statement on the legal guarantees in relation to the public liberties in Morocco.

14.11.2001: The EMHRN sent a letter to the EU foreign ministers, Chris Patten, and Javier Solana calling for the suspension of the Association Agreement with Israel, in relation to the EU-Israel Association Council Meeting.

5.11.2001: EMHRN Letter to the EMP Minister Meeting in Brussels, 5-6 November.

22.10.2001: Press release on the Occasion of the release of the report on the F-Type Prison Crisis in Turkey and the Repression of Human Rights Defenders.

18.10.2001: Joint letter (including a briefing note) by 11 Human Rights Organisations (incl. EMHRN) on the occasion of the meeting with Mr Ben Yahia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

11.10.2001: EMHRN Concern about the Human Rights Situation in Tunisia.

8.10.2001: The EMHRN Published a Statement on the 11 September Attacks, Human Rights Attacked

9.9.2001: EMHRN Calls on the Syrian Authorities to immediately Halt Arrests of Political Critics.

26.6.2001: Human Rights Defender arrested in the airport of Tunis.

26.6.2001: Ban on 'Virtue' Party in Turkey Contradicts Human Rights and Democratic Principles.

20.6.2001: Also Palestinians have Rights! EMHRN Report on Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan released on the International Day of refugees.

31.5.2001: Euro-Mediterranean observer mission reports on the F-type prison crisis in Turkey and the repression of human rights defenders.

23.5.2001: Open letter to the EU concerning the sentencing of Dr. Saed El-Din Ibrahim to seven years imprisonment

21.5.2001: The EMHRN sent a letter to the EU foreign ministers, Chris Patten, and Javier Solana calling for the suspension of the Association Agreement with Israel, in relation to the EU-Israel Association Council Meeting.

21.5.2001: Human rights defenders condemned to imprisonment and fines

2.5.2001: Open letter to the Tunisian President Ben Ali demanding the release of Nejib Hosni.

19.4.2001: EU Abstention on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories: The EMHRN calls for an immediate international protection and for the EU to take a stronger role

5.4.2001: Report on Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association and Unfair Trials in Tunisia released today.

30.3.2001: Launch of the EMHRN Home Page in Arabic

30.3.2001: Human Rights Association in Turkey (IHD) threatened by closure in court trials related to prison raids.

29.3.2001: Nine Human Rights organisations (incl EMHRN) call for EU Action over Tunisia in relation to EU-Tunisia Association Council Meeting

15.2.2001: A new impediment to freedom of association for human rights defenders in Tunisia.

15.2.2001: Letter concerning the situation of Non-Palestinian refugees in Lebanon sent to the Lebanese authorities, the 27 ambassadors to the Barcelona Process as well as relevant persons of the EU institutions.

22.12.2000: Statement from mission to Tunisia 15-19 December, 2000.

21.12.2000: Turkish Raids on Prisons Violate Human Rights.

13.12.2000: Open letter to the Moroccan Prime Minister concerning the banning of three weekly newspapers.

29.11.2000: 600 Political Prisoners to be Released in Syria.

17.11.2000: Joint Statement by 9 human rights organisations (incl. EMHRN) on Egypt: Concerns about trial of human rights and NGO activists.

15.11.2000: Press conference and launch of a "white book" assessing five years of Euro-mediterranean Partnership with regards to respect for human rights.

10.11.2000: The General Assembly of the EMHRN adopts resolution and a new approach for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and elects new executive committee.

31.10.2000: The Difficult Situation of Families of Political Prisoners in Tunisia.

26.10.2000: Open Letter to the Tunisian President Ben Ali concerning the ban on foreign travel imposed on Dr. Moncef Marzouki.

9.10.2000: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network's Recommendations and observations regarding the Association Council meeting between Morocco and the European Union, 9 October 2000.

## **ANNEX 2: MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

18-20 April 2002: EMHRN participation in *Valldigna EuroMed Forum*, Valencia, Spain.

12-14 April 2002: EMHRN co-organisation and participation in *EuroMed Civil Forum*, Valencia, Spain.

6 April 2002: EMHRN participation in seminar on the *EU and Civil Society Development in Northern Africa* organised in Rabat by the University of Liverpool.

23-24 March 2002: EMHRN *Working Group Meeting on Palestine*, Geneva, Switzerland.

1-2 February 2002: EMHRN participation in conference on *European immigration policy* organised by the European Network against Racism, Brussels, Belgium.

31 January to 1 February 2002: EMHRN participation in *Annual Conference of the EuroMesCo*, IFRI, Paris.

31 January 2002: EMHRN participation in a Round Table on the *Euro- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development*, co-organised by Yves Pietrasante (MEP), Heinrich Boell Foundation and the World Wild Foundation, Brussels, Belgium.

27-28 January 2002: EMHRN sponsoring (with the FIDH) and participation in colloquium on *Human Rights and Terrorism*, organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Cairo, Egypt.

24 January 2002: EMHRN meetings with SIDA, Swedish Foreign Office and Swedish Caritas. Stockholm, Sweden.

18-19 January 2002: EMHRN participation in conference on *Steps to Protection – The Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders*, organised by Frontline, Dublin, Ireland.

18-19 January 2002: EMHRN organisation of Conference (with the CIR and the MEDA Institute) *New Frontiers, New Horizons, Migration, Refugees and Human Rights*, Trieste, Italy.

7 January 2002: EMHRN *Working Group meeting on Justice*, Brussels, Belgium.

14 December 2001: EMHRN participation in the *Citizen's Assembly* organised by NGOs in Brussels on the eve of the Laeken Summit.

10 December 2001: EMHRN participation in conference on *Europe & Refugees: Freedom, Security and Justice?*, organised by European Council for Refugees and Exiles, Brussels, Belgium.

2-3 December 2001: EMHRN *Working Group Meeting on Palestine*, Geneva, Switzerland.

23-24 November 2001: EMHRN participation in *The European Union Human Rights Discussion Forum*, Brussels, Belgium.

21-22 November 2001: EMHRN participation in Conference on *Human Rights Impact Assessment* organised by the Humanist Committee on Human Rights, Brussels, Belgium

5-7 November 2001: EMHRN training seminar on the *Human rights implications of EU assistance to its Mediterranean partners*, Brussels, Belgium.

24 October 2001: EMHRN participation in seminar on *Future Immigration and Asylum Policies of the European Union — Challenges from a Human Rights and Global Perspective*. Helsinki, Finland.

18-20 October 2001: EMHRN participation in *Civil Forum*, Brussels, Belgium.

16-18 October 2001: EMHRN participation in training seminar on *Gender Mainstreaming in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*, organised by the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Brussels, Belgium.

2 October 2001: EMHRN participation in *MENA meeting* of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Bonn.

30 September 2001: EMHRN participation in *MENA meeting* organised by Amnesty International, Turku, Finland.

19-22 September 2001: EMHRN participation in regional seminar on the *Financing of Human Rights Organisations* organised by the FIDH, Beirut, Lebanon.

19-22 July, 2001: EMHRN participation in the *Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference Against Racism*, organised by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Cairo, Egypt.

10 July 2001: Meeting with EU Commission on the EU Communication on Human Rights of 8 May 2001.

26-29 April 2001: Conference on *Access to Justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region*. Convened by the Faculty of Law in Uppsala, Sweden in cooperation with the EMHRN.

24 April 2001: EMHRN meeting with Spanish ambassador to the Barcelona Process in Madrid, Spain.

20-22 April 2001: EMHRN participation in planning meeting at the University of Portsmouth, UK under the Meda Democracy Project on *The EU and the Promotion of Democracy: The Case of North Africa*.

10-12 April 2001: EMHRN participation in the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Committee for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland

28 March 2001: EMHRN meeting with Belgium ambassador to the Barcelona Process, Mr Jean-Louis Mignon, in Brussels (with the FIDH).

10-12 February 2001: Conference on *The Future of Palestinian Refugees under the Current Peace Process*, Organised by the CIHRS and the OMDH with EMHRN support and participation.

19-20 January 2001: *Coordination meeting on the human rights situation in Palestine* convened by the EMHRN in Brussels.

10-12 November 2000: *Civil Forum in Marseille*. The EMHRN and the FIDH were responsible for the human rights sessions under the priority theme of Rule of Law and Democracy.

7-8 November 2000: *4th General Assembly of the EMHRN*. Carry Le Rouet, Marseille.

21-22 October 2000: Conference *From Stuttgart to Marseille - a dialogue about the Euro-Mediterranean process with partners and representatives of civil societies from the Southern and Eastern regions*, organised by the Forum der Kulturen, Stuttgart; the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Heinrich Boell Foundation; the German Unesco Committee, the EMHRN and others.

13-16 October 2000: The Second International Conference of the Arab Human Rights Movement: *Human Rights Education and Dissemination: Prospects for the 21st Century Agenda*, organised by the CIHRS with support of the EMHRN.

5-7 October 2000: Seminar in Casablanca: *Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean region: towards common standards*, organised by the EMHRN, Espace Associatif, the Moroccan Association of Democratic Women, and the OMDH.

5-7 June 2000: EMHRN participation at LAW conference on *Culture and Community in Jerusalem: Strategies to Protect and Promote Human Rights*, Jerusalem.

In addition, since September 2001 the EMHRN took part in regular Human Rights Contact Group meetings in Brussels.

### **ANNEX 3: PUBLICATIONS**

April 2002: Press Freedoms in Jordan, Sa'eda Kilani, EMHRN. Arabic and English.

October 2001: Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: The Casablanca Declaration of October 2000". EMHRN, Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc, Espace Associatif, Organisation Marocaine des droits de l'Homme, Arabic, English, French.

October 2001: Rule of law, democracy, and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Report from the Human Rights Workshops at the Civil Forum in Marseilles, 10-12 November, 2000'. EMHRN and FIDH. Arabic, English, French.

October 2001: The F-Type Prisons Crisis and the Repression of Human Rights Defenders in Turkey: Report from a Fact-Finding Mission to Istanbul and Ankara on 5-11 May 2001. EMHRN, KHRP, OMCT. English.

June 2001: Refugees also have Rights! Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, EMHRN mission 17-28 September 2000. EMHRN. Arabic, English, French.

April, 2001: Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association and Unfair Trials in Tunisia: A report of the trials of Dr Moncef Marzouki, Attorney Nejib Hosni and the Tunisian League for Human Rights. EMHRN, Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, KHRP, Observatoire pour la protection des défenseurs des droits de l'Homme, Union internationale des Avocats. French.

November 2000: Guide to Human Rights in the Barcelona Process, Khemais Chammari and Caroline Stainier. EMHRN. Arabic.

October 2000: Guide to Human Rights in the Barcelona Process', Khemais Chammari and Caroline Stainier. EMHRN. English.

## **ANNEX 4: STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES DOCUMENT**

The purpose of the document is to outline a series of procedures and structures which will, inter-alia, promote effectiveness and efficiency as well as an appropriate distribution of work between the members of the Network, its officers, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

The ideas outlined in this paper have been drafted following initial discussion and are an attempt to represent the range of views amongst the Executive at its last meeting.

The paper is divided into four sections:

- The role and functioning of the Executive Committee
- The role and functioning of the officers of the Network
- The responsibilities of members of the Network
- The role of the Secretariat

### **The Role and Functioning of the Executive Committee**

The EC is the executive decision-making body within the Network within the context of the overall plan and procedures of the Network as decided by the General Assembly. The EC is answerable to the General Assembly and is established with the expressed purpose of implementing the decisions and strategic directions decided by the Assembly.

The role of the EC is to develop further and ensure the implementation of policies and decisions made by the GA. It also has an important role in preparing the meetings of the GA and in ensuring the effective operation of the Network overall.

The core area of work of the EC includes:

- developing an overall strategic plan for delivery of the policies of the Network, monitoring that plan and amending it as necessary
- developing a range of sectoral policies as necessary (e.g. in relation to the EU and the Barcelona process, in human rights education etc.)
- developing strategies for the implementation of the decisions of the GA
- responding to events and opportunities as they arise between meetings of the GA
- overseeing the work of the various Network structures or working groups tasked with specific roles
- ensuring that the Secretariat functions efficiently and effectively
- raising funds for the delivery of the agenda of the Network and reporting to the Assembly on the expenditure of such funds
- setting up all necessary structures within the Network to ensure the effective delivery of the mandate and agenda of the Network.

As such the overarching role of the EC is to develop and deliver policy and will therefore avoid becoming embroiled in the minutiae of administering the Network – this is the proper responsibility of the Executive Director and the Secretariat. It is important that the EC has time and energy at its meetings to deal effectively with the broad areas of policy and strategy that are so crucial to building an effective Network. The EC should spend the majority of its time on developing effective strategies and on capacity building within the Network.

The EMHRN will only be effective if its members see it as their duty (as well as their opportunity) to develop and implement the decisions of the GA. We need to studiously avoid a model of operation which places primary emphasis on the Secretariat and the officer board or the Executive. In this sense the principle of subsidiarity is a guiding principle.

The meetings of the EC will be chaired by a variety of its members – this is to ensure a fair division of responsibility as well as to promote a variety of styles and approaches within the Network. Thus, different members of the EC will chair different (and appropriate) agenda items, taking a lead in presenting them, in discussions and in negotiating effective agreement. This will also avoid undue pressure on the President or Vice-President as well as promoting collegiality and collective responsibility. It will also avoid the tendency for meetings to be dominated by one or two individuals, the officers or, indeed, the Secretariat.

At its meetings, the EC will ensure that its working procedures are effective taking care to consider some of the following:

- the need for a clear agenda which focuses on priority issues and assigns adequate time to such priorities
- the need for effective leadership roles divided amongst members of the Executive – those in a lead role should take responsibility for preparing documents, leading discussion, negotiating budgets and responsibilities etc.
- the need to ensure a fair chance for all to contribute – everyone on the EC has a responsibility not only to speak but also to listen and to ensure all have an opportunity to contribute
- organising the timing of the agenda to ensure that breaks occur, that energies are maximised to ensure that priorities receive the attention they need etc.
- that clear decisions are reached with responsibilities for implementation also agreed etc.
- the need to ensure that all policy or executive decisions are clearly taken by the Executive as an Executive so as to ensure that all legal and financial obligations and responsibilities are collectively understood and owned.

In its decision-making procedures, the EC will seek to work through consensus but, if necessary, it will make decisions by simple majority vote.

The purpose of such procedures is clear – effective development and implementation of policy, collective responsibility, an appropriate blending of executive and membership decision-making and the development of an effective and real network.

### **The Role and Functioning of the Officers of the Network**

It is important that the role and responsibilities of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer are clear and effective.

#### **The Role of the President**

The principal role of the President is to oversee the effective functioning of the Network in consultation with the Executive Committee and, as such, is responsible for the development and implementation of the policies of the Network. The President should represent the Network internationally and put forward the views and policies of the Network in appropriate fora.

The President also chairs the General Assembly and different agenda items within the Executive Committee. The President should not be responsible for the day to day administration and detail of the Network – this is the proper responsibility of the Executive Director who is responsible to the Executive Committee.

It is agreed that the President should not become focused on the detail or minutiae of the administration of the Network. The principle role of this position is to oversee the broad area of policy development and to ensure that the Network is developing along lines and according to policy agreed by the General Assembly.

#### **The Role of the Vice-President**

The role of the Vice-President is crucial to the effective development and impact of the Network. The role of the VP should be similar to that of the President – representing the Network, developing and ensuring the implementation of policy and chairing meetings etc. The VP should assist the President in carrying out this work thus avoiding undue pressure on one individual as well as building capacity within the Network.

In addition, the VP should have specific responsibility for particular areas of policy – such areas will be agreed by the Executive Committee.

### **The Role of the Treasurer**

The role of the Treasurer is clear – to oversee the financial development and management of the Network in close consultation with the Executive Committee and the Executive Director. The Treasurer will work with the Executive and the Executive Director to develop a funding strategy for the Network and will take part in necessary meetings with funders as well as commenting on the various funding applications.

The Treasurer will report to the Executive Committee at its various meetings as well as to the General Assembly.

### **The Responsibilities of Members of the Network**

The effective development and functioning of the Network will be a direct result of the ‘ownership’ of decisions amongst members as well as responsibility for their effective implementation. The Executive Committee and its officers, as well as the Secretariat will work to ensure the effective participation of the membership in the development and implementation of the decisions of the GA and the Network.

In terms of promoting human rights values and capabilities, the executive structures and processes of the Network should avoid unnecessarily centralising decision making and implementation responsibilities. This has been the central failing of many other networks.

EMHRN through its officer board, its EC and its Secretariat should develop the principal of encouraging as well as enabling individual member organisations to take a lead role with regard to particular elements of the mandate and work of the Network. Thus, specific areas of work such as those of Women and Human Rights, Education, Country Focus etc. should become part of the everyday work of member organisations. The Network should then ensure that it supports the development of necessary capacity within those member organisations. Thus the EC, the Secretariat and the officers of the Network should give priority in their own work as well as in budgets and expenditure to ensuring effective delivery amongst the members.

The different areas of work decided upon by the membership via the GA should be assigned to groups of member organisations that should then develop that work in partnership with each other and under the overall co-ordination of the EC administered via the Secretariat.

### **The Role of the Secretariat**

In the context of the procedures, roles and responsibilities described above, the role of the Secretariat is clear – the day-to-day delivery of the agenda of the Network in partnership with the member organisations.

The Secretariat therefore become a support agency within the Network – support in terms of communications, translations, preparations for meeting and seminars, documentation etc. The Secretariat has responsibility for relations with EU and individual state structures in consultation with the President and Vice President. The Secretariat also has responsibility for developing core communication needs within the Network, for example, an effective and useful Internet site etc.

The Secretariat will also take responsibility for developing close communication with the lead organisations working within particular areas – monitoring progress, developing documents, preparing meetings, assisting with fund-raising etc. The Secretariat should also have responsibility for servicing the meetings of the EC and the GA as well as for individual additional meetings and workshops as well as projects.

Therefore, the key role of the Secretariat is to facilitate the development of the Network and not to be the first instrument for conducting its work. The Network will strive to avoid building up the belief that the size of the Secretariat is a sign of the strength of the Network. The effective test of the Network is the degree to which individual organisations are not only consulted about the development of policy but also see themselves as being key instruments in the delivery of the strategies around such policies.

The Network will strive to develop an approach that encourages member organisations to see the work of the Network as a core component of their own work rather than as an addition to it. All of the structures of the Network will operate to this end.

EC, Brussels 24 June 2001

## **ANNEX 5: EVALUATION OF TRIESTE CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, TRIESTE 18-19 JANUARY 2002**

The evaluation is based on consultations and feedback and consisted of written evaluation forms, correspondence, discussions within the Executive committee in Athens and with participants of the EuroMed Conference on Migration, Refugees and Human Rights.

### ***Background***

In deciding to hold a conference on Migration, Refugees and Human Rights, the Executive Committee (EC) for the first time turned the attention of the network to the issue of refugees, migration and human rights, an issue of critical importance to the region. The issue was considered a priority for the network because of the objective realities on the ground and the fact that this links colleagues from the north and south side of the Mediterranean basin.

The preparations started with a meeting in Rome on September 26, 2001. A steering committee agreed on the basic outline of the conference. A draft paper explaining the strategy and methodology was presented to the EC and a contract was drawn up between the EMHRN and the Italian Refugee Council (CIR). The steering committee was kept informed about the progress of the preparations made by the CIR. Other members of the EC were also asked for inputs. On December 19 a final preparatory meeting was held and a conference paper was finalised. The day before the Conference moderators and other contributors met.

The Steering committee paid special attention to finding a method that should guarantee the greatest possible creativity from the audience. The method chosen for the meeting is called "Appreciative enquiry". This method is useful for a heterogeneous audience. It focuses on creativity rather than "problem solving". It assumes that there is vast experience amongst the participants and that however complex and difficult the environment of the issue, it is possible to generate positive approaches and unblock the limits to our action. It seeks to find out where the creativity is, what contains real potential.

### ***The Conference***

The conference took place in Trieste on 18-19 January 2002.

The conference brought together representatives of main international organisations as well as representatives of major civil society and academic initiatives regarding EuroMed work on migrant and refugees.

The conference focussed mainly on the following questions: Do we have a common vision of the refugee and migration issue in the region? If so what is it? If not what would it look like? What are the concrete steps that would take us where we want to go to realise the vision?

The conference had two moderators, of whom one worked with the organisers during the entire period of preparations.

### ***Results***

#### **Positive achievements**

The issue of refugees and migration was in focus for the first time within the framework of the EMHRN. This reflected the network's concern of the political importance of the issue and the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The participants, who were a very heterogeneous group and differed greatly in their knowledge and experience, worked together to find a clear, shared vision of the problems of the region in a positive and action oriented way.

The participants took an active, creative and collective approach to conceive strategies and methodologies for future work.

Solidarity between people from north and south was present during the work and demonstrated the potential for important work together in the future.

In the working groups the representatives from various NGOs, research communities, and intergovernmental organisations exchanged knowledge and experiences and formulated joint propositions for the future.

A broad range of elements of a short and medium term strategy to act upon was provided for the EMHRN by the participants.

These achievements justify the networks choice of this issue as a matter for the future.

### **Negative aspects of the Conference**

The conference was not well balanced.

The ceremonial opening was too long and in addition did not respect the time limits set.

There were too many speakers and there was an over-representation of speakers from the North. Some speakers were not sufficiently briefed about what was expected from them.

Not enough new knowledge was presented or created.

Under the pressure of events and planning time resources, there were some failures of understanding between the host agency and the steering committee.

Inevitably some of these misunderstandings led to tension and misunderstandings within the conference. E.g. the establishment of an Observatory in Trieste was announced without prior consultation with the EMHRN and against the agreement that the conference had no mandate to act on behalf of the participants.

Also it was widely felt that the Italian organizers influenced the press conference for its own interests more than the collective interest of the conference.

Interpretation was insufficient. The EMHRN policy to have Arabic, English and French as standard languages was not respected. French was exchanged for Italian which made it difficult for some participants to fully enjoy and contribute to the conference.

Some interpreters were excellent but some did not have sufficient quality.

Future conference of this kind should pay special attention to these above mentioned points.

### **Issues that need the attention of the Executive Committee**

A manual for the planning of conferences needs to be established for the network. This should attempt to standardise rules for e.g. making agreements with those putting their knowledge and work to the disposal of the EMHRN, rules for logistics, rules for organisation standards and rules for the co-operation with member organisations, and procedures for transparency and consultation.

The division of responsibilities between the secretariat, steering committees, partners and other actors need to be cleared in each co-operative project. Contingency plans would need to be in place in case the host agency runs into organisational problems.

When it plans, the steering committee needs to constantly be aware of the most effective method of working to reach its objectives. Working methods for conferences need always to be evaluated. For example, the method 'appreciative enquiry' was appreciated by some and not at all by others. It is a method sensitive to factors like trust and willingness to participate.

One threat to the work of the network in carrying out its program of action is the issue of trust/lack of trust. It sometimes manifests itself in the motivations of both North and South. It sometimes appears between members of the networks and the intergovernmental agencies, and sometimes between individuals.

As a conclusion we would like to put forward that in spite of very serious problems that need to be dealt with in future work, the conference was a step forward as it leaves us with more to do, and follow up to take. It had an impact greater than itself on the day.

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the contributions from the many people who supported the meeting by sharing their knowledge and experience at the meeting, in a spirit of good will for the future.

EMHRN, Executive Committee, Valencia 15 April, 2002.

## **ANNEX 6: LETTER FROM THE EC TO MR CHRISTOPHER HEIN**

25.03.02

Dear Mr Hein.

On behalf of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), I send you my best regards.

I am writing you to inform you that the EC met for its ordinary meeting on 28 February and 1 March 2002 in Athens, and discussed, amongst other items, the Conference in Trieste on Migrants, Refugees and Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The EC members appreciated the efforts made by the Italian Refugee Council in organising the Conference.

However, the EC members were also very concerned about the announcement that you made to the press on the first day of the conference: It was announced that a main outcome of the conference would be the creation of an Observatory on migration and refugees in Trieste without prior consultation with the EMHRN or with the participants at the conference, and the statement that was widely published in the press on the subsequent day.

The EC acknowledge that a declared aim of the conference was the preparation of the ground for a permanent structure to work on the conference issue in a Euro-Mediterranean context.

However, no agreement was ever made on the concrete follow-up to the conference. In fact, the whole idea of the conference was to discuss strategies and methodologies with the participants and not to present them with a *fait-accompli*.

The effect of the announcement became that many participants felt taken hostage by the organisers and as being invited solely on the ground that they should legitimise a prior agreement taken without their consent. The way the opening session was managed by the director of the EuroMed Institute taking undue time from the other sessions also contributed to giving the impression that participants were in Trieste to endorse prior agreements.

We believe the event causes doubt about the spirit in which the Italian Refugee Council and the EuroMed Institute conducted cooperation the EMHRN. It sowed distrust among participants and seriously hampered proceedings.

We therefore ask you to formally and publicly dissociate the Trieste Conference from all eventual initiatives initiated by the CIR and the EuroMed Institute in follow-up to the conference.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

Sincerely yours

Abdelaziz Bennani,  
President, EMHRN

## **ANNEX 7: LETTER FROM MR CHRISTOPHER HEIN TO ALL EMHRN MEMBERS**

To all members of the EMHRN

Dear Colleagues,

To our great surprise we have received a letter from the President of the EMHRN, on behalf of the Executive Committee, in which the Italian Council for Refugees, an ordinary member of the EMHRN, is heavily criticised and accused. The letter is attached for your information.

I am sorry to be obliged to call your attention on this matter in a moment when we are all afflicted by the most atrocious human rights violations committed these days on the Palestinian land. Maybe you may understand that we cannot remain silent in front of this letter, which is unacceptable in substance and form.

The Italian Council for Refugees requests formally:

- a. On the basis of Art. 4.2.4 letter b) of the EMHRN statutes, that this matter is put on the agenda of the next General Assembly of the EMHRN.
- b. That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee, relating to the subject, held in Athens on 28<sup>th</sup> February / 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 are circulated to all members before the next General Assembly
- c. That the EMHRN Assembly on the basis of Article 4.2.1 letter g) of the statutes shall vote a motion in which the Assembly declares that the Italian Council for Refugees, asked by the EMHRN to collaborate in the field of migration and asylum in human rights contest, has co-organised the Trieste Conference in January 2002, in the spirit of further promoting the aims and objectives of the Network.

In considering the matter, members of the Network may take note of the following statement of the Italian Council for Refugees (CIR):

1. In violation of Article 4.3.4 of the EMHRN statutes, CIR has not received any written or other notice of the Athens Meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. In violation of Article 4.3.2 of the Statutes, CIR was not put in the position to participate in the Athens Meeting of the Executive Committee and was informed only after the meeting, though the above mentioned letter that issues related to CIR activities and projects were on the meeting agenda
3. It is untrue that the Director of CIR had announced in a press conference that a main outcome of the conference would be the creation of an Observatory on migration and refugees in Trieste. The truth is that the Director of CIR has announced in a press conference that the Trieste Conference would discuss the eventual constitution of a permanent monitoring and support agency. This is exactly what had been discussed in a preparatory meeting in Rome on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2001 in which members of the Executive Committee had taken part (see summary of the meeting proposal by the Executive Director of the EMHRN). If the press has reported the words of the director of the CIR differently, it is not a matter on which the CIR can be held responsible.
4. It is untrue that the EMHRN or participants of the Trieste Conference were not consulted. The truth is that there had been a constant consultation between the CIR and the EMHRN on the organisation of the Conference on the Basic Document, including two preparatory meetings with members of the Executive Committee. Each detail was discussed and jointly agreed upon.
5. It was announced at the Trieste Conference that the Executive Committee would adopt a Declaration on Migration and Asylum, to be brought to the attention of the Valencia Meeting of the Euro-Med Governments. Up to now, no such document has been circulated to the membership, nor adopted by the Executive Committee.

6. The next General Assembly of the EMHRN should request the Executive Committee to present a programme of follow-up of the Trieste Conference on the subjects of migration and asylum in the area.

Friends,

I should like to express my disappointment that, after having made considerable efforts during several months for the successful organisation of the Trieste Conference, in perfect harmony and mutual trust, especially with the EMHRN Executive Director and some members of the Executive Committee, the Italian Council for Refugees and myself are treated the way it appears from the attached letter,

Best regards,

Dr. Christopher Hein  
Director of the Italian Council for Refugees,

