



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية – المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESEARCHER FOR ADVOCACY REPORT ON EU AND PALESTINIAN MINORITY IN ISRAEL

Posted 9 March; Closing date 21 March 2010

The EMHRN, together with its member organizations in Israel, the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA) and Adalah, seek to hire a researcher to produce a 20-page advocacy report in English on "The EU and the Palestinian Minority in Israel." The advocacy report is a priority project for 2010 of the EMHRN Working Group on Palestine/Israel and the Palestinians (PIP WG).

Qualifications of the researcher

- Extensive knowledge of the EU system, EU-Israel relations, international human rights law and comparative and minority rights law;
- Knowledge of the human rights situation of the Palestinian minority in Israel
- Excellent analytical and English writing skills;
- Knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (preferred);
- Ability to deliver a first draft of the report by 15 May; second draft by 15 June; and final copy by 1 July 2010.

Background

Numerous agreements concluded between the EU and Israel within the context of the 1995 Euro-Mediterranean Partnership or the "Barcelona Process" (now the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)) contain provisions binding both parties to "respect human rights and democratic principles". The Association Agreement signed between Israel and EU in 1995 governs a range of political, economic, and cultural cooperation issues. The European Neighborhood Policy, conceived in 2003, and the resulting, specific EU-Israel Action Plan also contain various human rights commitments, including on minority rights.

Despite the fact that there has been a significant deterioration in the human rights situation in Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the EU is considering to "upgrade" its relations with Israel. Regarding the Palestinian minority in Israel, in its progress report on the EU-Israel Action Plan dated 23 April 2009, the European Commission concluded that, "**Overall, the promotion and protection of the Israeli Arab minority [by Israel] remained unsatisfactory during the reporting period, particularly in areas like land allocation, housing, planning, economic development, investment in social infrastructure and justice.**" The EC also expressed its concern over high poverty rates, high unemployment rates, and the high drop-out and low graduation rates.

Further major areas of concern included inequitable land allocation; the unrecognized Arab Bedouin villages in the Naqab (Negev); the Central Elections Committee's decision to ban two Arab parties from participating in the 2009 parliamentary elections, which the EC described as "a step backwards"; and the arrest of over 700 Palestinian citizens of Israel for demonstrating against the recent Israeli military operations in Gaza.

To date, the EC conclusions noted above reflect some of the most extensive, official comments documented by the EU in its public reports. In general, rights violations by Israel against the Palestinian minority are rarely addressed in EU official statements and reports.

Methodology of research and content of the report

The report should examine how EU concerns about the Arab minority are reflected or not in EU-Israel cooperation by:

(1) Reviewing and analyzing EU agreements with Israel, policy documents and reports for language about the Arab minority;

(2) Reviewing and analyzing other EU documents for texts regarding minorities (including, but not limited to EU anti-discrimination legislation and its implications for foreign policy and EU commitments in the context of the Council of Europe) as well as EU good practices in other contexts for a comparative perspective;

(3) Identify potential discrimination of the Palestinian Arab minority (including gender based discrimination) in EU-Israel cooperation in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Neighborhood Policy and the UfM. Among others, the researcher will review and analyze EU Community programmes (such as the 7th Framework for scientific research and cooperation) and EU agencies to examine the extent to which the Arab minority in Israel has benefitted or not from financial support/grants/awards and if pro-active measures have been taken by the EU to strengthen the participation of this minority;

(4) Providing action-oriented recommendations to the EU, its Member States and Israel on how to better protect and promote the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel, including in relation to addressing specific gender-based discrimination.

Interviews with relevant EU representatives in Brussels and Tel Aviv, as well as the HRA, Adalah and other civil society actors and political leaders should also be conducted by the researcher to supplement and better inform the documentary and legal research.

As the EMHRN has adopted a gender mainstreaming approach, gender sensitiveness should be applied.

Target groups and use of the report

The report will be used for advocacy purposes such as meetings with government officials and parliamentarians in Brussels, key EU capitals and in Israel, with EU embassies in Tel Aviv and permanent representation offices in Brussels, as well as with civil society actors and the media in Europe and Israel. The European Parliament is of particular importance as it has a co-decision

power regarding agreements signed with Israel in some "technical" areas and in the field of EU anti-discrimination legislation. The report and its findings will also be presented to the Arab leadership such as the High Follow-up Committee on Arab Citizens of Israel.

The report aims at strengthening the advocacy of civil society organizations by providing clear recommendations on how to promote and mainstream Palestinian minority rights in EU's relations with Israel. The report will be widely disseminated in Europe and in Israel.

Practical Information

(1) Coordination: The researcher should work in coordination and agreement with the EMHRN Coordinator of the PIP Working Group, HRA and Adalah. The researcher should also work independently, using his/her own workspace and computer.

(2) The research will be written in English and should not exceed 20 pages.

(3) Budget: A fee of EUR 5,000 is available for the researcher in addition to expenses for travel to Israel and Brussels. The HRA will conclude an agreement with the researcher and pay the fee and travel expenses related to the research in compliance with existing organizational guidelines and within a global budget to be specified in the contract.

(4) Application by closing date of 21 March 2010: Please send a letter of interest , your CV and a methodology note to Ms Nathalie Stanus, Project Coordinator of EMHRN PIP Working Group, Tel: +32(0)2/540.86.46; E-mail: nst@euromedrights.net

All activities will be implemented in coordination and agreement with the project coordinator of the EMHRN who works in close contact with the member organisations of the EMHRN working group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians.