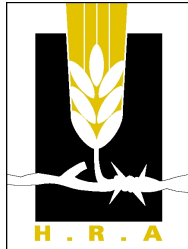




EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان



AL-HAQ



public committee against
TORTURE
in israel



ב'תש"ז
B'TSELEM
בתיסלם

with the kind support of the European Commission



THE EU-ISRAEL ACTION PLAN WITHIN THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY:

*What is the impact of the EU-Israel Action Plan on Human Rights
in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories ?*

Training & Seminar

April, 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This EMHRN report provides a summary of the two training sessions for NGOs held in Ramallah on April 12th and Tel Aviv on April 17th as well as the seminar on EU-Israel relations and the ENP Action Plan which took place on April 18th 2007 in Tel Aviv.

The EMHRN organised the events in partnership with its member organisations, Adalah, the Arab Association for Human Rights, B'Tselem and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Al-Haq co organised the training session in

Ramallah, while in Gaza, Al Mezan and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights were also actively involved. Regretfully, a training planned in Gaza could not take place for security reasons.

The seminar aimed at evaluating the implementation of the EU-Israel Action Plan within the ENP, two years after its adoption and the impact the Action Plan may have had on human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The seminar's main general conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

1. The human rights situation in Israel and the OPT has deteriorated greatly since the EU-Israel Action Plan came into force.
2. The EU-Israel Action Plan makes only a brief and general mention of human rights issues in contrast to Action Plans between the EU and other countries. There is no specific action item for human rights. The human rights language in the EU-Israel Action Plan is very vague and generally worded. The human rights provisions need to be elaborated precisely and in details to express explicit rights protection for the implementation of this Action Plan and for eventual further cooperation frameworks in the future.
3. There are no benchmarks in the EU-Israel Action Plan to assess performance and progress or any timetable for implementation. Benchmarks are needed to assess implementation. In the next phase it is necessary that benchmarks are identified.
4. There is no Human Rights Sub-Committee within the framework of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. There is an informal working group on human rights. No public protocol is kept of its meetings and thus, it lacks transparency. The human rights organizations would like a human rights body to function in a more institutionalized manner, with regular meetings and full transparency.
5. Human rights and civil society organizations should be consulted and involved in the implementation stage of the EU-Israel Action Plan currently underway, and part of a review and evaluation process of the Action Plan, which should expire in early 2008. NGOs have clearly articulated priorities which can be developed into concrete working plans to assist this process. In order for the consultation and evaluation to be useful, a public review mechanism with a clear timetable and working process should be established.
6. Human rights should be mainstreamed into all cooperation frameworks between the EU and Israel.