

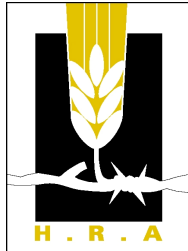


EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

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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

EMHRN 2007

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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.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The present report is the third as part of a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society to promote human rights in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) conducted by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network¹.

The EMHRN believes that, if it is taken seriously and properly implemented, the ENP has the potential to have a significant impact on the situation of human rights and on democratisation in the region. For that reason, it has established a programme to foster a debate on the ENP and the Action Plans among member organisations and civil society in the countries of the region, local governments as well as the European Union (EU).

Part of the project is to organise training and broader public seminars in Mediterranean countries in order to:

- ❑ Raise awareness of Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to the ENP and encourage them to push for an improvement of the human rights situation within this framework;
- ❑ Express the expectations and concerns of NGOs about the negotiations and implementation of the Action Plans;
- ❑ Strengthen the dialogue between NGOs, their government and EU representatives on human rights and democratisation aspects for the implementation and review of the Action Plans and in anticipation of eventual negotiation for further cooperation;
- ❑ Encourage the media to make the ENP and Action Plans known within the public opinion and societies;
- ❑ Encourage the establishment by civil society of independent monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Action Plans;
- ❑ Share best practices by giving the seminars a regional dimension.

The overall objective is to establish a more consistent and effective approach to human rights and democratisation through the involvement of civil society in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The first seminar on the ENP, organized by the EMHRN in cooperation with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, took place in Cairo in January 2006 and was attended by representatives of about 30 Egyptian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), NGOs from other Mediterranean countries and Ukraine, the EU Presidency, several EU member states and the European Commission. However, the Egyptian government refused to take part in a dialogue

¹ The EMHRN currently includes 84 human rights organizations and individual members based in 30 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Network seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the region, to facilitate the development of mechanisms for protecting and promoting human rights, to foster democratic reform, to spread human rights principles and to generate capacity in those areas.

with NGOs on this matter. A report on the proceedings of the seminar² containing detailed recommendations aimed at influencing the negotiation process on the EU-Egypt Action Plan was submitted in March 2006 to the European institutions in Brussels by a delegation of Egyptian NGOs. This initiative received much coverage in the Egyptian media as well as in Brussels, culminating in the adoption of a European Parliament resolution endorsing the NGOs' recommendations³.

The second EMHRN seminar was held in Beirut on 2-3 June 2006. It was aimed at raising the awareness of NGOs in Lebanon and bringing them together with a view to submitting recommendations on human rights to the EU and to the Lebanese government during the ongoing negotiations on the ENP Action Plan and on its future implementation. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the René Moawad Foundation, the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) and the SOLIDA movement (Soutien aux Libanais Détenus Arbitrairement). It was attended by about 90 people, including civil society representatives from Lebanon and other Arab states, Turkey, Moldova and Georgia. Representatives of the European Commission, EU member states and the Lebanese government and Parliament were also present. The event was covered by the media.

Around ten NGOs in Lebanon then met several times to formulate detailed recommendations for the report which was then presented to the EU institutions by a delegation of NGOs on 8-10 October 2006 in Brussels as well as to the Lebanese authorities.

In April 2007, the EMHRN in partnership with its member organisations Adalah, the Arab Association for Human Rights, B'Tselem and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel organised a training in Tel Aviv on *the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy*. Al-Haq co-organised the training session in Ramallah.

The original plan was to conduct a single training session for NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza but due to the severe travel restrictions faced by Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), an additional training was planned in Gaza with EMHRN member organizations in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights. However, due to the security situation in the Gaza Strip, the EMHRN international delegation was forced to cancel its visit and the training. The lack of security reinforces the isolation of Palestinians in Gaza and contributes to the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the restricted freedom of movement of Palestinians strongly affects their daily lives and fundamental rights.

During their stay, members of the EMHRN delegation toured the Wall which is still being constructed in the West Bank, the military check points and settlements in "Greater Jerusalem" area with a B'Tselem field worker. They witnessed the strong effect of the Wall on the movement of the Palestinians travelling to Jerusalem where there are only three check-points allowing passage.

² EMHRN, "European Neighbourhood Policy: Human Rights in the EU-Egypt relations. Recommendations of Egyptian Non-Governmental Organizations for the EU-Egypt Action Plan", March 2006, available at <http://www.euromedrights.net/usr/00000020/00000055/00000751.pdf>

³ See European Parliament resolution on Egypt: the Ayman Nour affair, 6 April 2006, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0144+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

The representatives of the EMHRN also visited Arab unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev with a fieldworker from Adalah. The Arab Bedouin, who are part of the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel and citizens of the state, suffer from severe discrimination by State authorities. There are around 40 villages with approximately 76 000 inhabitants who are denied basic municipal services, such as access to water, electricity, roads, health care and education. Home demolitions are common and the majority of the population lives in shantytowns. The delegation spoke with Arab Bedouin whose houses have been demolished or threatened with demolicment. They asked the delegation to convey information about the Arab minority in the Negev to the EU and its member states.

The three parts of the two training sessions, which were conducted by Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN Advocacy Director, in cooperation with Susan Rockwell from the MATTIN Group and Kirsten Hjørnholm Sørensen, Aprove⁴ Policy Officer – Middle East, focused mainly on:

- ➔ Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations
- ➔ The European Union Institutions
- ➔ How can NGOs promote the respect of human rights in the framework of EU-Israel relations, in particular the ENP?

The two training sessions were followed by a seminar held on April 18 in Israel on *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 Territory ?*

Around 60 people attended the seminar, among them Israeli and European NGO representatives, 12 representatives of EU member states embassies and representatives of the European Commission in Tel Aviv. Israeli government officials were invited but told the EMHRN member organizations that they were unable to attend.

The EU-Israel Action Plan was adopted in December 2004 and it entered into force in April 2005. It covers a timeframe of three years with a set of jointly agreed priorities and actions including on democratisation and human rights. A first evaluation of its implementation was conducted by the European Commission in December 2006. This seminar aimed at evaluating the implementation of the ENP EU-Israel Action Plan, 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 also aimed at encouraging NGOs to monitor the process of implementation of the ENP Action Plan and to make proposals in this regard.

The discussion focused on the following issues:

- Human Rights within EU-Israel relations and commitments under the ENP Action Plan
- Comparison with other ENP Action Plans with Mediterranean and Eastern European countries

^{4 4} the World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe

- The implementation of the Action Plan: Specific Human Rights Issues in Israel and the OPT
- Recommendations and conclusions

The first part of the report presents a summary of the training sessions focusing on guidelines for advocating on human rights issues in the framework of EU-Israel relations. The second part summarizes the constructive exchanges that took place during the seminar. It is followed by recommendations for the implementation of the ENP Action Plan with Israel.

TRAINING

Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy

Ramallah, 12 April 2007 & Tel Aviv, 17 April 2007

In April 2007, the EMHRN in partnership with its member organisation Al-Haq, organised a training session in Ramallah, as well as a second training session in Tel Aviv in cooperation with its member organisations Adalah, the Arab Association for Human Rights, B'Tselem and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel on *the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy*.

Each training session gathered around 20 representatives of human rights NGOs from Israel, the OPT and Europe. Representatives of the EC delegations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem also participated in part of the trainings in Ramallah and Tel Aviv.

The three parts of the two training sessions, which were conducted by Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN Advocacy Director, in cooperation with Susan Rockwell from the MATTIN Group and Kirsten Hjørnholm Sørensen, Aprovev⁵ Policy Officer – Middle East, focused mainly on:

- ➔ Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations
- ➔ The European Union Institutions
- ➔ How can NGOs promote the respect of human rights in the framework of EU-Israel relations, in particular the ENP?

SUMMARY OF TRAINING SESSIONS

The training sessions in Ramallah and Tel Aviv were divided into three parts based on a Powerpoint presentation available on the EMHRN website⁶.

The first part included a description of the EU institutions, the EU decision making process as well as an introduction to EU funding. Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN Advocacy Director, presented

⁵ the World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe

⁶ See www.euromedrights.net

the competences and composition of the EU Commission, the EU Council and the European Parliament especially in relation to human rights and the Euro-Mediterranean relations and the ways European institutions may be approached by NGOs. The second part of the training dealt specifically with the human rights mechanisms in EU-Israel relations i.e. the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy. A presentation was given, on specific institutions, notably the Association Council, Association Committee, the Sub committees and working group on human rights. Objectives and means of the ENP were tackled as well as the ENP EU-Israel Action Plan. How NGOs can promote human rights in these frameworks was also discussed.

During the training in Tel Aviv, *Eric Galvin, Task Manager for Human Rights and Civil Society at the European Commission Delegation in Tel Aviv*, gave the Commission's point of view on the EU-Israel relations and ways to address human rights issues. According to Mr. Galvin:

Article 2 of the Association Agreement is binding and considered by the EU as an essential part of the agreement. If a country violates this article, the EU can:

- Ask for information and clarifications from the country regarding certain violations or situations on ground.
- Suspend the agreement (happens only in extreme cases)

The ENP Action Plan is a document with mid and long-term perspectives. Its objectives can be regarded as very ambitious in the short-term but they seem more realistic in the long run. Moreover, it is a constructive approach focusing on dialogue and consultation that aims at promoting common values.

Consultation with civil society is perceived as very important by the EU Commission. It is recommended that civil society organizations be pro-active on that matter and cooperate with each other in order to be more efficient and to make it easier for the EU to prioritize the issues they wish to advocate.

The current Action Plan will end in the beginning of 2008. A Reflection Group was created to assess the existing Action Plan and reflect on the future, but its working procedures are still unknown.

During the training in Ramallah, *Yasmine Rockenfeller, from the European Commission Delegation in Jerusalem*, explained that an EU Informal Human Rights Working Group was set up on the initiative of the Dutch and Swedish Representative offices. This working group is strictly informal and has no decision power but it meets every 6 weeks and Palestinian NGOs are sometimes invited. Local NGOs have an important role to play in determining priorities. It attempts to gather requests from Palestinian NGOs. The working group may provide information to the Heads of Mission meetings who can decide or not to convey the information to their respective headquarters.

In the last session of the training, *Susan Rockwell from the MATTIN Group* presented some recommendations on how NGOs can promote the respect of human rights in the framework of EU-Israel relations in particular the ENP. She differentiated between the active and passive enforcement of EU obligations.

Active enforcement

According to EMHRN's notes on her presentation:

There is a commitment on human rights all through the EU agreements, namely articles 6 and 11 of the Treaty on the European Union, articles 177 and 181 Treaty on the European Communities, as well as in essential elements clauses contained in the Association Agreements. All these provisions provide a basis to demand respect for human rights. The inclusion of an essential elements clause into the Association Agreements dates from the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991 during which the EU found that it did not have a legal grounds for suspending bilateral agreements and was forced to rely on a more general framework of international law.

There is a fairly robust human rights monitoring by the EU on the ground. Reports written by the EU missions as well as those written by NGOs are fairly widely read. In terms of declarative diplomacy the EU is usually legally correct when it makes reference to Israel's violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

All the EU tools evolve around dialogue. The power of these tools is therefore potentially very low. A dialogue can take two possible directions: With the countries with "*shared common values*" the aim is to build cooperation. In cases where there are no "*common values*", the EU can call for improved practice. It can threaten to impose sanctions and to possibly take sanctions.

As regards EU-Israel relations since the Action Plan was negotiated, there has been both dialogue and differences. For example, there was a divergence in the definition of the term 'minority'. Reportedly Israel attempts to equate minority rights in Israel with immigrants' rights in the EU. There were also differences on the legality of extrajudicial killings.

In the case of Israel, the EU tools are somewhat inappropriate for different reasons. First, there is a lack of political will within the EU to use the "human rights" article, or article 2. In order for the Association Agreement to be suspended, all 27 member states of the EU need to agree by a unanimous vote.

The EU has only used sanctions in cases of imminent security threats or in small faraway countries, usually in Sub-Sahara Africa and South-East Asia. A reason given by EU officials for not suspending the agreement with Israel is that if they suspend one, they will have to suspend all agreements with Mediterranean countries. An additional dilemma regarding sanctions is whether they would be effective. Their impact would probably be questionable because Israel has the unconditional backing of the US. The US would quickly fill a hole created by the suspension of the Association Agreement. As well the EU considers that suspension would also strip the EU of the influence it has on Israel. Also, sanctions would create a discontent within the Israeli voting population. Sanctions would most likely only be effective if the US were to join in.

Regarding the role of European civil society, they could consider focusing on actions based around individuals' unwillingness to be directly or indirectly involved in violations of international law. Calls for sanctions when sentiment building has not been sufficiently developed may be detrimental. There should first be enough information and readiness.

Passive enforcement

It is important to make use of the concept of passive enforcement in the lobby process and focus on the EU obligations under EU law as well as public international law. An example is the legality of the framework programme for research and technological development, FP7. Israel was the first non-European country to join this programme. The fact that settlement firms took part in this framework programme is against the rules of participation of the programme itself and also in violation of international and European law. The advantage of the passive enforcement strategy is the fact that it takes conditionality out of the sphere of political discretion.⁷

Kirsten Hjørnholm Sørensen from Aprodev presented lessons learnt from Aprodev's practical experience with doing lobby work at the EU and member state level.

Aprodev (the World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe) initiated a joint project in 2001 with the objective of trying to influence EU policies towards the parties of the Middle East conflict. The joint goal of the project is to contribute to ending the humanitarian crisis and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by advocating and facilitating a more active role of the EU and its member states in promoting a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. More specifically Aprodev urges the EU and its member states to promote the respect for and enforcement of IHL and IHRL among both parties to the conflict by ensuring that all its policies, relations, agreements and activities with Israel and the Palestinian Authority are drafted, interpreted and implemented in accordance with public international law. Many, but not all, of the issues Aprodev has worked on are described in the EMHRN EU-Israel human rights reviews, and both the Aprodev secretariat in Brussels as well as member agencies in member states have been involved in the work.

The European political system is very complicated - even for Europeans themselves. That makes intervening in a meaningful way a big challenge given the limited resources NGOs have. But regardless of available resources the distance between Brussels and the EU member states' capitals is a challenge, also for actors within the system.

Aprodev acted towards all three institutions (Council, Commission and Parliament) and particularly last year, Aprodev was involved in processes that involved the European Parliament. These were the passing of the financial instrument for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI) as well as the 7th framework programme for scientific cooperation. Aprodev managed to reach well beyond the usual development and human rights circles of the system and get in contact with actors who deal with other aspects of EU-Israel and EU-Palestinian Authority relations. It is the experience of Aprodev that the actors involved in the operative side of, for example, scientific cooperation know little about the human rights and IHL violations that have direct bearing on the way the EU-Israel cooperation is carried out.

⁷ EMHRN, "A Human Rights Review on the EU and Israel: Mainstreaming or selectively extinguishing Human Rights?", December 2005, available at

<http://www.euomedrights.net/usr/00000026/00000027/00000028/00000328.pdf>

EMHRN, "Israel's Human Rights Behaviour July 2004- July 2005", August 2005, available at

<http://www.euomedrights.net/usr/00000026/00000027/00000028/00000813.pdf>

In its work, Aprodev has realized that acting towards the political system in order to obtain specific results requires a large effort to analyze and understand the political system, the way of thinking and concerns of centrally involved actors. This remains a challenge.

Sandrine Grenier advised the NGOs to focus not only on people working at the political level, but also on technical cooperation issues in the EU Institutions. Human rights mainstreaming is a commitment of the EU, so it is worthwhile bringing up this issue.

Susan Rockwell concluded with the following general recommendations to NGOs on lobbying within the EU system and EU-Israel relations:

- Become more familiar with the mechanics behind the state-based order. Read the UN charter etc. There is a lot of misunderstanding within civil society about what one state can ask another state to do.
- Think about self-interest. Think about a country as a person promoting and defending interests.
- Palestinian civil society actors should try to get the Palestinian Authority to more frequently and correctly speak about international humanitarian law;
- Seek clarification on EU positions or interpretation of certain issues.
- Work with parliamentarians to scrutinize EU and Member State policy. (See inter alia the questions annexed to the latest EMHRN EU-Israel review.⁸)
- If you are an NGO, you have to become familiar with the EU. Go to the website. Learn about the competences and the mandates. Look at the EMHRN Powerpoint presentation and Guide⁹;
- Ask questions instead of making statements
- Address the national parliaments as well. The real level of accountability is the national EU member states;
- Focus on the EU Presidency. It is good to start preparing a year in advance.

During the training in Tel Aviv, Mohammed Zeidan from the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA) presented the HRA's experience of advocating the EU. He advised to have realistic expectations and to work on the following points in order to implement locally the advocacy in an efficient way following this training:

- To work with the EU media to publicize the advocacy work done with the EU institutions
- To push to translate the declarations into actions as the ultimate goal of advocacy
- To work not only with Brussels but also locally with the EU Commission delegations and EU member states' embassies

⁸ EMHRN, "A Human Rights Review on the EU and Israel: Mainstreaming or selectively extinguishing Human Rights?", December 2005, available at

<http://www.euromedrights.net/usr/00000026/00000027/00000028/00000328.pdf>

⁹ EMHRN, "Human Rights Instruments in Euro-Mediterranean Relations", 2007 available at

<http://www.euromedrights.net/usr/00000047/00001165.pdf>

- To work on human rights issues within Israel and not only in the framework of the peace process
- To know the EU terminology, proposed mechanisms and real interest in the region and to link human rights issues to their interest
- To prioritize and identify issues to raise; to specify and not complicate the message
- To keep the link with the people working on these issues
- To follow up on the policies and with contacts.
- To be present and available for information
- To set up a long term strategy; it should not be one time action.

TRAININGS CONCLUSIONS

Mays Warrad from Al-Haq, the Rapporteur of the training held in Ramallah, presented the conclusions of the meeting:

1. It was useful to learn about the EU institutions. The EU is a complicated system, yet possible to work with, especially for organisations working on the ground with human rights defenders.
2. It is important for Palestinian NGOs to develop knowledge of the EU, its system and relations with Israel and to dedicate one staff member to this issue.
3. We went through a long list of institutions that we can address. We can make use of the EMHRN, and address the national representations of the EU member states, and the European Commission Delegation in Jerusalem. The main objective of NGOs should be to provide information, advocate and lobby with these actors.
4. We have to remember that advocacy cannot achieve complete results. Results from advocacy will not be fast, but when persisting for years something can be achieved, as was illustrated with the example of the origin rules. It is important to know who to address and for what, keeping in mind the mandate of the addressee. We should prepare ourselves very well, focus on concrete issues and base our arguments on law.

Finally, participants expressed interest in the issues raised during the training as well as will to engage in further strategizing on how to effectively address the EU system. Furthermore, it was stressed that addressing the EU requires a collective effort that also includes strategies for reaching the media and the public on issues of human rights. Again the importance of knowing the political system as well as the mandates of the different actors was stressed.

* * *

The training conclusions were presented in Israel by Orah Maggen, Information and Communication Coordinator of PCATI and Emilie Dromzée, Project Coordinator from the EMHRN who drew attention to the following points that were raised during the training:

- Learning about and advocating with the EU requires time and resources.
- NGOs should push for human rights mainstreaming in all EU policies and EU-Israel cooperation frameworks, e.g. the subcommittees established under the Association Agreement.

- Civil society has a responsibility to provide clear information of human rights issues as well as to coordinate and prioritize. Constructive language is more productive.
- Timing is important especially as regard the end of the EU-Israel action plan early 2008 and a possible future EU-Israel reinforced cooperation in 2008.
- Media work is necessary to raise awareness and public opinion in Israel and in the EU.
- Regional approach could also promote good practices.

* * *

Both training sessions were evaluated by the participants as very useful, but too short. The participants highlighted the need for further training.

SEMINAR

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 ?***

Tel Aviv, April 18, 2007

On April 18, the EMHRN in partnership with its member organisations Adalah, the Arab Association for Human Rights, B'Tselem and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, organised a seminar on *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 Territory ?*

The aims of the seminar were to:

- ❑ Raise awareness of NGOs with respect to the ENP and encourage them, in this framework, to push for an improvement of the human rights situation;
- ❑ Express the expectations and concerns of NGOs about the implementation of the Action Plan;
- ❑ Strengthen the dialogue between NGOs, EU representatives and their government on human rights and democratisation aspects for the implementation and review of the Action Plan and in anticipation of eventual negotiation for further cooperation;
- ❑ Encourage the media to make it known within the public opinion and societies;
- ❑ Encourage the establishment by civil society of independent monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Action Plan;
- ❑ Share best practices by giving the seminar a regional dimension.

The overall objective is to establish a more consistent and effective approach to human rights and democratisation through the involvement of civil society in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Around 60 people attended the seminar, among them Israeli and European NGOs representatives, 12 representatives of EU member states embassies and representatives of the European Commission in Tel Aviv. Israeli government officials were invited but told the EMHRN member organizations that they were unable to attend.

The EU-Israel Action Plan was adopted in December 2004 and it entered into force in April 2005. It covers a timeframe of three years with a set of jointly agreed priorities and actions including on democratisation and human rights. A first evaluation of its implementation was conducted by the European Commission in December 2006. This seminar aimed at evaluating the implementation of the ENP EU-Israel Action Plan, two years after its adoption and the impact the Action Plan may have had on human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The seminar also aimed at encouraging NGOs to monitor the process of implementation of the ENP Action Plan and to make proposals in this regard.

The discussion focused on these particular issues:

- Human Rights within EU-Israel relations and commitments under the ENP Action Plan
- Comparison with other ENP Action Plans for Mediterranean and Eastern European countries
- Towards implementation of the Action Plan: Specific Human Rights Issues in Israel and the OPT
- Recommendations and conclusions

SUMMARY OF SEMINAR SESSIONS

WELCOMING REMARKS

Mohammad Zeidan, Arab Association for Human Rights, General Director, opened the seminar and welcomed all on behalf of the organizers. He referred to the NGO training sessions from the previous day which provided much information but also raised a lot of questions about EU-Israel relations. He stated that two main issues were reported one by one on the Arab radio channels of the North: the monitoring of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plans and how little these are known to the public.

Anke Schlimm, Consul and Head of the legal and Consular Department at the German Embassy in Tel Aviv, welcomed the participants on behalf of the German Presidency. According to her, the German Presidency has set out an ambitious work program on human rights building on the work of previous Presidencies. The aim is to promote human rights worldwide via political dialogue. In the case of EU-Israel, this dialogue takes place through an informal working group on human rights.

According to Ms. Schlimm, the EU-Israel relationship is mature even though EU and Israel do not agree on certain issues. Progress can be noted for instance on terrorism but the issues of the respect of International humanitarian law and the conflict are still subject of continuous dialogue, including in the framework of the ENP Action Plan. Contrary to other ENP countries, the EU and Israel do not have a human rights subcommittee, but only a subcommittee on political dialogue and cooperation. However, in February two informal EU-Israel Working Groups respectively on human rights and on International Organisations met. During these meetings the issues of minority rights, international humanitarian law, the newly established United Nations Human Rights Council, the Separation barrier, the restriction on movement in OPT, difficulties faced by NGO to access areas in the OPT, extra judicial killings and the launching of Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip were discussed. Israel claimed the imperative issue of security. Ms Schlimm informed the participants that the EU-Israel Human Rights informal Working Group meeting should take place before the end of the year. She emphasized that dialogue remains important in order to achieve the goals of the German presidency to promote the EU towards its citizens and in the world.

Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN, Advocacy Director, presented the EMHRN and especially the EMHRN Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, which includes human rights defenders from Europe, Israel, the OPT and Palestinians from abroad. Ten years after the signing of the Barcelona declaration, EMHRN members are disappointed that the human rights situation has not improved in the region. The launch of the European Neighbourhood Policy created the hope among NGOs that the blockages of the Barcelona process could be overcome. However, the promises of the ENP regarding human rights have to be implemented. The objective of this seminar is to gather representatives of the NGOs, governments and the EU Commission to reflect on this policy as regard its human rights dimension. Israeli government officials were invited, but she regretted that they were not present to the seminar.

HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN EU-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND THE ENP ACTION PLAN

Emanuele Giaufret, EU Commission Delegation, Head of Political, Trade and Information Section, noted this is the second event on human rights in the last two weeks in Israel. The first one was organized by the Commission. This emphasizes that human rights are important. In his opinion, the EU-Israel relationship in the last three years has improved: a more intimate relationship has been established thanks to the new context of the ENP. The ENP is a general policy adopted after the EU enlargement. Its main philosophy is to intensify relations of the EU with its neighbours to avoid a fortress Europe and create '*a ring of friends*' based on common values and economic interests as well as to promote reforms and common values. Partner countries have an interest in contributing. The advantages of the ENP compared to the Barcelona Process are in its diversified approach which implies setting different priorities for every country. Israel has been very interested in the ENP and in negotiating directly with the EU on developing a commonly agreed agenda and on identifying common interests. The negotiations were painful because they were very serious and because the Action Plan covers all aspects of the EU-Israel relations. He noted that human rights are fully embedded in the Action Plan in specific paragraphs. The EU tries to integrate its values in the entire Action Plan. For instance, minority rights, the fight against anti-Semitism and racism and xenophobia, the respect for International Humanitarian Law are included in the Action Plan. But it is not an EU position as such as it has been drafted in cooperation with the Israeli government. The current objective is to try to implement those goals through the setting-up of a number of subcommittees dealing with technical issues. An informal working group has been created dealing specifically with human rights.

In the past, since the beginning of the Intifada, or even earlier, the bilateral relations were marked by the two sides' statements. The approach was not very fruitful. The EU has not changed its policy, but has been trying to address those matters in a more cooperative manner with the Israeli government. Mr Giaufret emphasized the importance of dialogue and therefore he also welcomed this seminar as well as the invitation extended to the Israeli government. Regretfully, representatives of the Israeli government could not come, but hopefully they will attend the next time.

Eventually, he noted that the EU is probably the most generous donor supporting NGOs and promoting understanding between Israelis and Palestinians as well as stability and common values. He noted that some had expressed criticism of EU funding policies, but found it fortunate that criticism is not scarce in Israeli society.

Risa Zoll, Director of International Relations at B'Tselem, talked about what is missing within the existing framework. The language of the Action Plan gives the impression that human rights are a very general concept. It lacks enforcement and accountability. The generality of language is not an accident. Relations between the EU and Israel are highly politicised, but it is in our interest that it is based on universal values. The EU-Israel Action Plan makes only a brief mention of human rights issues. In contrast to the Action Plan for Jordan or Morocco, for example, there is no specific action item for human rights. Instead under the heading "*Shared values*", there is a sub-heading entitled "*Democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms*" which includes the following general action:

- *"Work together to promote the shared values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law."*

Israel thought that a human rights subcommittee was not in accordance with its 'self image'. This exception undermines Israel's credibility, but also the EU's credibility throughout the world. The scope of EU-Israel relations is considerable in terms of trade and other areas. The EU is a strategic partner for Israel. Israeli organisations play an important role in holding Israel accountable to human rights standards.

EU tools could be used more intensively to promote accountability. B'Tselem and other Israeli NGOs are committed to work in this process to hold Israel accountable. The guidelines and principles referred to earlier should be transferred to concrete actions. Measurable benchmarks are a way for assessing EU and Israel human rights record. A formal EU-Israel human rights subcommittee should be established, enabling a formal structure, more transparency and more opportunities for Israeli NGOs to help promote enforcement of human rights principles.

Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy Director, EMHRN, did a comparative analysis of the ENP Action Plans in the Euro-Mediterranean region. She underlined that local NGOs had hoped that the ENP would improve the human rights situation, but so far did not see changes on the ground. She stressed the diversity of the Action Plans and their human rights chapters i.e. Morocco and Jordan Action Plans contain three-four pages of priorities regarding human rights contrary to the Israel Action Plan's human rights chapter which is very short and general. She stressed that the NGOs deplore the fact that Action Plans lack benchmarks and a calendar as well as procedures of evaluation. She also raised the issue of the establishment of subcommittees on human rights between the EU and Jordan, Morocco and Lebanon that already had some meetings. The role of civil society in this process is very important for a concrete implementation of the Action Plans.

Roman Romanov, Rule of Law Program Director, International Renaissance Foundation Ukraine, tried to illustrate the importance of civil society involvement in the ENP Action Plans as he has been personally involved in that process for the last three years in Ukraine.

Both Israel and Ukraine have highly politicised relations with the EU. The Ukrainian authorities are looking for any perspective of membership mentioned in documents. The Ukrainian human rights organizations' position is that they do not take a stand on political issues, but rather try to use all available EU mechanisms to push for the development of human rights strategies in the country.

From the very beginning of the ENP, the Ukrainian government discussed human rights issues with NGO's. Many suggestions made by NGOs were accepted and included into an annual implementation plan that specifies concrete measures to be taken. The Ministry of Justice has to report on some of the issues of the implementation plan and has to consult NGOs in relation to the reporting.

How was this level of cooperation achieved between NGOs and the government?

NGOs decided to draft a paper on the need for legal reforms on the country. This study which included a number of detailed recommendations was presented in Brussels and in Kiev. It was, after some time, welcomed by EU officials. The government of Ukraine had never elaborated such a detailed and comprehensive paper. That is why there were no serious alternatives and it was difficult for the government to reject or ignore the ideas presented by the NGOs. It should be said that at the beginning both the Ukrainian government and EU officials were critical of NGOs' involvement in EU-Ukraine relations.

Why do we need cooperation with the government?

NGOs' aim is to promote human rights; the government wants a free trade zone and other economic improvements. There are some areas on which NGOs need to push the government, like ratifications of international human rights treaties, penitentiary, criminal justice reforms etc. This cannot be achieved just by NGO's efforts and therefore they welcome that a number of the needed reforms are mentioned in the EU-Ukraine documents.

No real criteria for evaluation and no real mechanisms to evaluate the Action Plan exist but NGOs try to combine action by using Ukrainian membership in the Council of Europe and taking advantage of the mechanisms present in that forum. There is more interest on the part of the Ukrainian government to cooperate with the EU than with the Council of Europe, but it is involved with both and therefore NGOs try to use this.

Remarks and Questions from the participants

The first questions were about the role of civil society in the ENP and whether civil society will be consulted for the development of an eventual further cooperation. Mr Giaufret explained that a Reflection Group has been set up that will reflect (not negotiate) on future bilateral relations. The Action Plan will keep on running but there is a need to reflect. In her recent speech at Hebrew University, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner made it clear that the door is open to Israel but Israel also has to decide, how far it wants to go.

A participant asked what it means to get closer to Europe. According to Mr Giaufret, civil society will definitely be part of the ENP. It would be useful if the agenda of civil society is well articulated and shared. It is however difficult to create a formal interface with civil society in this framework. It is impossible for civil society to take direct part in bilateral relations as it is an intergovernmental process. However, civil society has a role to play and should find the right format.

A question was raised on civil society organisations' credibility if they start to cooperate with the government. Ms. Risa Zoll indicated that the current situation is new, since in the past relations between civil society and the states were different. Still many civil society organisations are not willing to accept a new role. According to Mrs. Zoll, NGOs' role is to explain what the cooperation can bring. It is important to explain the new role of civil society to civil society itself, the public as well as the government. The cooperation does not happen because of certain personalities, but rather because of institutional structures. She said the message from the Israeli Minister of Foreign affairs was that they did not know who to consult. Yet there was intense consultation with the industry. Ms. Zoll considers that civil society should have advocated more

to be involved in the process. In the future, NGOs should be consulted and should advocate more intensively on these issues. She deplored the people's lack of information on the ENP which should be a public issue.

A participant asked what the discussions are in EU-Israel political dialogue regarding the economic sanctions in light of the newly formed unity Palestinian government. Mr Giaufret said that the EU is looking at the performance of the new unity Palestinian government. He pointed that the TIM has been set up to offer some basic services, including health.

Another participant noted that the weakness and generality of the Action Plan makes monitoring of achievements very difficult in spite of EU's intention. He asked what the EU's plans were in the upcoming evaluation of the Action Plan especially if there was a clear timeline for when reforms should be achieved and whether or not political dialogue should continue. According to Mr Giaufret, the EU Commission learned that objectives should be SMART. The EU Commission thinks that the issues in the Action Plan reflect the concerns of civil society in Israel and these issues need to be constantly raised. He noted that the review of the Action Plan was the progress report that was released in December 2006 by the EU Commission. The final assessment of the implementation of Action Plan will be drafted by the EU commission next year. Mr Giaufret suggested that civil society should help reflect both in terms of tools and objectives that need to be defined.

The last question was if the EU-Israel Working Group on Human Rights and the Working Group on International Organisations were linked and why. Mr Giaufret explained that they are linked for the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs. The same representatives are sitting in both Working Groups especially because some issues are cross cutting e.g. the Human Rights Council.

THEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EU-ISRAEL RELATIONS

■ Freedom of Movement

Anat Barsella from B'Tselem reported on issues of Freedom of Movement.

The restrictions on movement that Israel has imposed on the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories over the past six years are unprecedented in their scope and severity. These restrictions have severely affected all aspects of daily life for the entire Palestinian population. A simple action such as going to work in the nearby town, obtaining medical treatment, or visiting relatives entails lengthy bureaucratic procedures, trying to get a movement permit; long queues and security checks at permanent and temporary checkpoints; travelling through long and badly structured roads or, simply being denied the ability to travel. Furthermore, the sweeping restrictions on freedom of movement that Israel has imposed since the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada are the principal cause of deterioration of the Palestinian economy and the unprecedented increase in unemployment and poverty in the Occupied Territories.

In keeping with the principle of human rights mainstreaming, the EU should make it clear to Israel that all the cooperation and measures taken under the ENP must be implemented by both sides in accordance with the requirements of international human rights and humanitarian law. Also the EU should give priority to ensuring that the human rights-related items currently listed in the Action Plan are translated into concrete actions and programmes within the set timeframe.

Specifically regarding freedom of movement, the Action Plan should include the following items:

- Remove permanent checkpoints and other physical obstacles restricting Palestinian movement inside the West Bank;
- Cancel the discriminatory regulations regarding the use of roads in the West Bank so that all civilians have equal access to the roadways;
- Cancel the order prohibiting Palestinians from entering the Jordan Valley without special permits by vehicles and foot;
- Reroute the Separation Barrier so that it is not constructed inside the territory of the West Bank;
- Ensure that the Gaza Strip has uninterrupted ability to import and export goods;
- Enable Palestinians to travel freely between the West Bank and Gaza Strip;

The Action Plan calls for a review of its implementation by the end of this year. The mechanisms for such a review – or the benchmarks for evaluation – have not been established. The EU could play a role in ensuring that basic human rights standards are an essential part of this review.

The EU should establish a public review mechanism with a clear calendar and measurable benchmarks that will enable it to assess how its agreements with third countries and ENP Action Plans are being implemented and applied with regard to respect for human rights. When carrying out periodic human rights reviews of the implementation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and the ENP Action Plan for Israel, relevant civil society organisations should be consulted.

■ **Settlements**

Netta Amar, independent human rights lawyer, presented the issues of Settlements. According to her, settlements are at the core of the conflict. The EU should push for a change on this situation as it is part of its obligation. The EU needs to ensure that it does not indirectly incorporate settlers or anything that has to do with settlements in its programs. European states should also ensure that European companies would not contribute to the facilitation of the occupation, as was the case with the Light Railway that is connecting settlements north of Jerusalem to East and West Jerusalem. She wondered if specific criteria that are based on International Humanitarian Law are applied before the EU supports certain programmes. She emphasized the importance of implementing the EU Guidelines on Promoting International Humanitarian Law especially with regard to the internal monitoring capacity. There is a need for integration of International Humanitarian Law into EU's internal legal services. There is a need for example for International Humanitarian Law analysts to be present in Consulates of EU member states in the OPT.

■ Incommunicado Detention

Eliahu Abram, Legal Advisor at the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), spoke on Incommunicado Detention in Israel in light of European and International Standards.

The EU-Israel Action Plan (2004) proclaims a mutual commitment to promote “shared values” concerning the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. The right to be free of torture must be included in this core of “shared values”. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly proclaimed that the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment “enshrines one of the fundamental values of democratic society”. The Human Rights Committee of the UN has explained that the purpose of this prohibition “is to protect the integrity and dignity of the individual”, adding that states must ensure effective protection from torture.

Chief among the safeguards against torture and ill-treatment are provisions against *incommunicado* detention. All the European and international human rights bodies hold that a detained suspect’s prompt access to an attorney serves the twin purpose of preventing torture and ensuring a fair trial. Holding the detainee incommunicado, without contact with lawyer, doctor or family members, facilitates torture and becomes, when prolonged, inhuman treatment. A benchmark has emerged from the jurisprudence of the European Court and international soft-law instruments: a detainee must be allowed access to a lawyer within 48 hours of arrest.

Incommunicado detention of suspects in Israel and the Occupied Territories exceeds the European and international standard by a wide margin. A Palestinian arrested under West Bank military law may be held for up to 90 days without seeing a lawyer. A person arrested under Israeli law for a security offence may be held for up to 21 days without seeing a lawyer. Detainees suspected of security offences are not allowed any contact with family members or independent physicians. Orders preventing Palestinian security suspects from seeing their lawyers are extremely common. Cases in which a suspect is held incommunicado in excess of 30 days occur every month.

The UN Committee Against Torture called upon Israel in 2003 to “ensure that no one is held for more than 48 hours without access to a lawyer” but the call was ignored. The EU-Israel Action Plan and the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terror (Barcelona 2005), which expresses the commitment to “ensure respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism in accordance with international law”, could be vehicles to promote reform of incommunicado detention in Israel and the Occupied Territories and thereby contribute to the prevention of torture.

■ Discrimination and National Minority Rights – Arab Citizens of Israel –

Sawsan Zaher, Lawyer from Adalah presented issues related to discrimination and national minority rights and especially the impact of the EU-Israel Action Plan on the Palestinian citizens of Israel.

She presented her experience at the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) session which reviewed Israel's periodic report in February 2007 and illustrated the importance of NGOs presence during the CERD Committee's review of State reports in order to encounter misleading arguments by the state during the committee session.

In its written shadow report to the UN CERD committee and in its oral argument, Adalah presented the status of Palestinian citizens of Israel and the racial discrimination they face by the state in various fields, such as the Citizenship and entry into Israel law which bans family unification between Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians from the Occupied Territories. This law was enacted for the first time during 2003 and Adalah challenged its constitutionality in the Israeli Supreme Court. The CERD committee also called Israel to revoke this law. However , the supreme court dismissed the petition and decided that the law is constitutional but called the government to consider amending the law and include some relieves to lessen the impact of the law on the family life of thousands spouses who got affected by it.

Despite the call of the Supreme Court, the Israeli government enacted another law which extended the first law until July 2008 and extends it application to spouses from Arab states as well. As a result UN CERD committee included in its conclusion observation which where released in March 2007, a third call to Israel to revoke the law.

The international tools, such as CERD concluding observation which call Israel to eliminate racial discrimination against Palestinian citizen of Israel, are available and clear. However, Mrs Zaher questioned on the implementation of CERD conclusions and other documents from other bodies and asked what could be the role of the international community work for a better implementation of the existing instruments.

The EU should ensure that the commitments included in the ENP EU/Action Plan are respected in particular the commitment to *“promote and protect rights of minorities, including enhancing political, economic, social and cultural opportunities for all citizens and lawful residents”*.

* * *

Several representatives of EU member states were notably particularly interested to have more information on residency permits for Palestinians, the establishment of new settlements, the Israeli view on the restrictions on freedom of movement and on the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, especially regarding the work and follow up of NGOs on these issues.

CONCLUSIONS

Rina Rosenberg, International Advocacy Director of Adalah, and Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN thanked the participants and summarized the conclusions of the meeting.

SEMINAR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-ISRAEL ACTION PLAN

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.

ANNEXES

PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING

Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy

Ramallah, 12 April 2007

09:45 Opening speech

Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq
Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN

Facilitator: Marita Roos, EMHRN / Nina Atallah, Al-Haq

10:00-11:15 PART I

The European Union Institutions

The EU institutions, the EU decision making process, EU funding

Presentation/Discussion

- with PowerPoint by Sandrine Grenier and Kirsten Hjornholm Sorensen, Aprovev

11:30-13:00 PART II

Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The European Neighbourhood Policy

Presentation/Discussion

- with PowerPoint by Sandrine Grenier and Kirsten Hjornholm Sorensen, Aprovev

PART III 14:30-17:00

How Can NGOs Promote the respect of Human rights in the framework of EU-Israel relations in particular the ENP?

Issues of Draft EMHRN EU-Israel 3rd Review

by Susan Rockwell

- Comments/Discussion

17:30-18:00 CONCLUSIONS

Summary of advocacy opportunities, tools and targets

- *Rapporteur*: Mays Warrad, Al Haq
- Discussion

Tel Aviv, 17 April 2007

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcoming

- Rina Rosenberg, Adalah
- Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN

Facilitators: Rina Rosenberg, Adalah / Marita Roos, EMHRN

10:15 PART I The European Union Institutions

EU institutions, EU decision making process, EU funding

Presentation/Discussion

- Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN and Kirsten Hjoernholm Soerensen, Aprovev

11:45 PART II Human Rights Mechanisms in EU-Israel Relations

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and The European Neighbourhood Policy

Presentation/Discussion

- Sandrine Grenier, EMHRN and Kirsten Hjoernholm Soerensen, Aprovev
- Eric Galvin, European Commission's delegation, Task Manager for Human Rights and Civil Society

14:00 PART III How can NGOs promote respect for human rights in the framework of EU-Israel relations and in particular the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP)?

Issues of EMHRN EU-Israel Review

- Susan Rockwell, MATTIN Group
- Comments/Discussion

NGO Experiences of advocating towards the EU

- Presentation by Mohammed Zeidan, Arab Association for Human Rights
- Comments/Discussion (NGOs invited to present their approach)

16:30 PART IV Conclusions: Summary of advocacy opportunities, tools and targets

- Orah Maggen, PCATI / Emilie Dromzée, EMHRN co-rapporteur
- Discussion

PROGRAMME OF THE SEMINAR

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 Territory ?

Tel Aviv, April 18, 2007

9.30 Registration

10.00 - WELCOMING REMARKS

- Mohammed Zeidan, General Director, The Arab Association for Human Rights
- Anke Schlimm, Consul and Head of the Legal and Consular Department at the German Embassy in Tel Aviv
- Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy Director, EMHRN

10.30 HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN EU-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND ENP ACTION PLANS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Moderator: Rina Rosenberg, International Advocacy Director, Adalah

- Emanuele Giaufret, Charge d'affaires, Delegation of the European Commission to the State of Israel
- Risa Zoll, Director of International Relations, B'Tselem
- *Presentation on other ENP Action Plans in the Euro-Mediterranean Region:* Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy Director, EMHRN
- Roman Romanov, Rule of Law Program Director, International Renaissance Foundation Ukraine

11.15 Remarks and Questions from the participants

12:15 THEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EU-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Moderator: Orah Maggen, The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

- **Freedom of Movement** – Anat Barsella, Researcher, B'Tselem
- **Settlements** – Adv. Netta Amar

12:45 Remarks and Questions of participants

14:00 THEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EU-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Moderator: Mohammed Zeidan, General Director, The Arab Association for Human Rights

- **Incommunicado Detention** - Adv. Eliahu Abram, PCATI Legal Advisor
- **Discrimination and National Minority Rights – Arab Citizens of Israel** - Attorney Sawsan Zaher, Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

14:30 Remarks and Questions of participants

15.30 CONCLUSIONS & CLOSING REMARKS

Follow up and monitoring

- Rina Rosenberg, International Advocacy Director, Adalah
- Sandrine Grenier, Advocacy Director, EMHRN

LISTS OF PARTICIPANTS

Training, Ramallah, 12 April 2007

	Organization	Name
1.	The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights	Aiche Mustafa Ahmad
2.	Ensan	Kulthoom Ahmed Odetallah
3.	Defence for Children International	Isabelle Guitard
4.	Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC)	Reema Shamasneh
5.	Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid	Rawan Natsheh
6.	Addameer Prisoners' support and human rights organization	Sahar Francis
7.	Applied Research Institute Jerusalem	Johny Abu Itah
8.	The Alternative Information Center	Anahi Ayala Iacucci
9.	Palestinian Center for Counseling	Rima Awad
10.	ICS	Martina Lannizzotto
11.	ICS	Elias Khayyo
12.	Al Haq	Jennifer DePiazza
13.	Al Haq	Nina Atallah
14.	Al Haq	Mays Warrad
15.	Al Haq	Elin Hilwig
16.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network	Emilie Dromzee
17.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network	Sandrine Grenier
18.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network	Marita Roos
19.	Mattin Group	Susan Rockwell
20.	Aprodev	Kirsten Soerensen
21.	EU Commission Delegation	Yasmine Rockenfeller
22.	Palestinian NGO network (PNGO)	Rania Kutteneh

List of Participants Training Tel Aviv, 17 April 2007

	Organization	Name
1.	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)	Orah Maggen
2.	ACRI	Gila Orkin
3.	Adalah	Rina Rosenberg
4.	Al Ahali	Yasmin Daher
5.	B'Tselem	Anat Barsella
6.	Gisha	Danielle Marom
7.	Human Rights Association (HRA)	Mohammed Zeidan
8.	Ittijah	Fida Abu Ata
9.	Unrecognized Villages (RCUV)	Faisal Sawalha
10.	Sawt el-Amel (The Laborers Voice)	Marie-Olivia Badarne
11.	Bimkom	Karen Pacht
12.	United Against Torture	Audrey Bomse
13.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Sandrine Grenier
14.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Emilie Dromzée
15.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Marita Roos
16.	APRODEV	Kirsten Soerensen
17.	Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM)	Anne-Marie Kuijpers
18.	Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM)	Jan de Vries
19.	MATTIN Group	Susan Rockwell
20.	EC Delegation	Eric Galvin
21.	EC Delegation	Alexander Hammelburg

List of participants Seminar Tel Aviv, 18 April 2007

	Organisation	Name
1.	Abraham Fund	Rebecca Polivy
2.	ACRI	Gila Orkin
3.	Adalah	Rina Rosenberg
4.	Adalah	Sawsan Zaher
5.	Adalah	Christian Nasrallah
6.	Aprodev	Kirsten Hjoernholm Soerensen
7.	B'Tselem	Anat Barsella
8.	B'Tselem	Risa Zoll
9.	Bimkom	Karen Pacht
10.	Diakonia IHL Program	Netta Amar
11.	Diakonia IHL Program	Anna Eggelind
12.	Diakonia IHL Program	Sara Heladei
13.	EC delegation	Eric Galvin
14.	EC delegation	Alexander Hammelburg
15.	EC delegation	Cilia Ebert
16.	EC delegation	Anna Elvinge
17.	EC delegation	Olea Mev
18.	EC delegation	Emanuele Giaufret
19.	Embassy of Belgium	Bénédicte Versailles
20.	Embassy of Finland	Johan Jansén
21.	Embassy of France	Gilles Pecassou
22.	Embassy of Germany	Priska Von Bonin
23.	Embassy of Germany	Anke Schlimm
24.	Embassy of Great Britain	Adam Sambrook
25.	Embassy of Italy	Nino Bovemori
26.	Embassy of Norway	Erik Thorsell Hansen
27.	Embassy of Portugal	Susana Duarte Coroado
28.	Embassy of Sweden	Annika Ben David
29.	Embassy of Slovakia	Milan Duvieh
30.	Embassy of Sweden	Emma Hemminson
31.	Embassy of the Czech Republic	Daniel Voej
32.	Embassy of the Netherlands	Marteen van Voorst tot Voorst
33.	Embassy of the Netherlands	Peggy Vissers
34.	Embassy of France	Aurélien Gloux-Saliou
35.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Sandrine Grenier
36.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Emilie Dromzée

37.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)	Marita Roos
38.	GISHA	Sari Bashi
39.	GISHA	Danielle Marom
40.	Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM)	Anne-Marie Kuijpers
41.	Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM)	Jan de Vries
42.	Human Rights Association (HRA)	Mohammed Zeidan
43.	Ilam Center	Heidi Paredes
44.	International Renaissance Foundation Ukraine	Roman Romanov
45.	Ittijah	Ameer Makhoul
46.	JCHR - Jurists coalition for human rights	Iyad Rabi
47.	MAP- UK	Uwe Schiwiek
48.	MATTIN Group	Susan Rockwell
49.	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)	Eyal Harenveni
50.	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)	Twyla Kowalenko
51.	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)	Orah Maggen
52.	Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)	Ron Gafter Hermesh
53.	PHR	Hivi Weingarten
54.	Physicians for Human Rights – Israel	Daniel Hasson
55.	Rabbis for Human Rights	Rabbi Arik Asherman
56.	SHATIL	Rolly Rosen
57.	Welfare association	Sufian Mushasha
58.	Women Against Violence	Aida Toma