

NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE

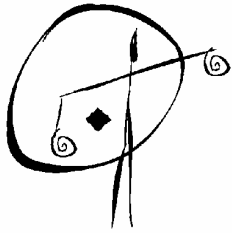
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Summary of No Peace Without Justice activities within the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD) program

Forum for the Future - Subministerial meeting

Berlin, Germany

22 – 23 October 2007



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No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) is the G-8 civil society partner of the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD), and it implements the political pluralism and electoral processes theme in close cooperation with the Government of Italy.

This exercise gathered momentum in the October 2005 Rabat International Colloquium on Political Pluralism and Electoral Processes, which pioneered successful civil society participation side-by-side with governments in a multilateral regional forum, with discussion of complex issues taking place in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. The Colloquium provided an important opportunity for government participants to renew their commitment to strengthen the bases of democracy and to broaden the scope of participation in political life and public affairs. Moreover, it constituted the first high-level meeting devoted to the direct exchange of views on political processes between governmental representatives and non-state actors in the region, in which civil society, in particular political parties and non-governmental organisations, was recognised, in the final statement, as a “legitimate counterpart of dialogue in the democracy-building process”.

In the course of the year 2007, NPWJ’s activities in the Region aimed at giving effect to the willingness expressed in the Rabat Final Statement “to initiate a precedent of dialogue between governments and non-state actors on profound political issues, with a view to the promotion of political pluralism and electoral governance” by transposing to a national level the same type of effective civil society participation in dialogue and joint decision-making. To this end, NPWJ - in cooperation with the Italian Government, through the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), and in partnership with several local partners - developed a project designed to develop further and provide momentum to the activities in the field of political pluralism and electoral processes.

The project is based on existing initiatives that have successfully incorporated civil society participation in regional governmental fora, including the Sana’a 2004 Conference and activities implemented during the DAD process that fully integrated civil society within inter-governmental regional discussions. The innovative element added by this project is the transposition to the national level not only of the substance of the commitments undertaken by governments on a regional level, but also of the role of civil society in deliberations and decision-making on the implementation of these commitments.

Activities aimed at strengthening and reinforcing the capacity of civil society to interact effectively with governments, implementing on a national level the commitments undertaken at the Colloquium on freedom of association and the participation of civil society in the reform process and, finally, at undertaking specific consultations to attain real progress on the issue of civil society participation in the political process focused on three target countries in the Gulf, Mashreq and Maghreb sub-regions, notably Morocco, Qatar and Jordan.

Rabat, 26-27 March 2007

In consultation with local partners, No Peace Without Justice identified the transfer and sharing of knowledge related to democratic reforms as a fundamental theme to be developed in order to support and facilitate effective interaction between non-state actors and state structures as well as to promote the role of non-state actors as a legitimate counterpart of dialogue within the democracy-building process.

On 26-27 March 2007, NPWJ, in partnership with the “Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center” (KADEM), the “Moroccan Organization for Human Rights” (OMDH) and the “Arab Institute for Human Rights” (AIHR), organised a meeting that gathered democracy activists, selected among academics and civil society representatives, from Morocco, Algeria, Jordan and Lebanon. The meeting provided an opportunity to institutionalise the transfer and learning processes of the knowledge of democracy transition in the MENA region, facilitating partnership and cooperation between civil society



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and universities and developing the professional skills necessary for civil society to enter into effective interaction with state structures, as well as mainstreaming and systematising the contribution of civil society to the decision-making process. The meeting had a primarily civil society character, but the participation of high-level government representatives represented a further example and a model of consultation between civil society and government institutions.

Doha, 27-29 May 2007

The Doha conference, organised by the Qatari National Human Rights Committee, together with the Ibn Kaldhun Center of Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim and NPWJ, took place on 27-29 May 2007, providing a model of consultation between civil society and institutions, both at a regional and at a national level, also for other countries in the Region, gathering more than 300 participants in all. NPWJ took, in particular, the responsibility to organise and elaborate the political and conceptual framework for the themes of the Role of External Actors and Transitional Justice.

The three-day conference provided an opportunity to analyse various topics related to political reforms and democratisation in the Arab region, offering a further occasion for reflection on the state of play within the MENA Region and elaboration of priorities and strategies aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the democratic process in the Region.

The Conference was also the occasion for the launch and the first board meeting of the Arab Democracy Foundation (ADF), an indigenous and independent non-governmental organisation, with a mandate to support democracy promotion throughout the MENA region, along the lines that were delineated by civil society through the Democracy Assistance Dialogue program in Venice in July 2005 and reaffirmed in concurrence with Governments of the Region at the Rabat Colloquium in October 2005. The ADF reinforces and is complementary to other similar initiatives, such as the Foundation for the Future launched at the Bahrain Forum for the Future in November 2005.

Amman, 17-19 June 2007

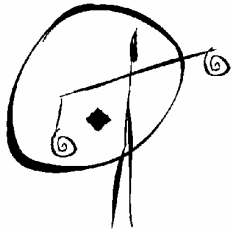
NPWJ, in partnership with the Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center (KADEM) and the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, organised in Amman a series of "Roundtables on Civil Society organisations' strategic planning for democratic reform" on 17-19 June. The meeting had a primarily "civil society" character, providing an opportunity to develop the professional skills necessary for civil society to enter into effective interaction with state structures as well as mainstreaming and systematising the contribution of civil society to the decision-making process.

The roundtables provided a fruitful occasion for gathering democracy advocates from the country and the Region as well as international organisations to exchange opinions and ideas about current and future activities aimed at reinforcing and strengthening democratic reform within the Region. The activities of the DAD partners, the preparations for this year's Forum for the Future and information about the evolution of the Foundation for the Future and the Arab Democracy Foundation were at the core of the three-day meeting.

Rabat, 18-26 November 2007

NPWJ, in partnership with our regional partner Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center (KADEM), is currently organising a new event, which is planned to take place in Rabat on 18-26 November 2007.

The purpose of this further occasion of meeting is to offer a venue for exploring non-violent strategies for political dialogue and democratic reform in the MENA region and an opportunity for discussing the establishment of a Transitional Justice Working Group comprised of indigenous human rights organisations. The meeting will also provide a follow-up to two of the events organised in 2007 by NPWJ in Rabat (March 2007) and Amman (June 2007).



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About the NPWJ MENA Democracy Program

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) is an international non-profit organisation working for the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and international justice.

The Middle East and North Africa Democracy program, begun in 2003, is designed to address situations where fundamental and universal principles are often at risk of being set aside in the name of political stability and presumed cultural incompatibility. The overall objective of the MENA Democracy program is to promote democratic values, liberal institutions and open government through the development of political mechanisms of consultation that recognise non-state actors, NGOs and civil society as a legitimate and necessary counterpart for dialogue with State institutions on issues of democratic reform. The program is carried out both at national and at regional levels, in cooperation with several governments, non-governmental and institutional partners, aiming to develop effective and durable consultation and dialogue mechanisms on democratic reform. For more information, please contact mena@npwj.org.

NPWJ is the G-8 civil society partner of the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD), and it implements the political pluralism and electoral processes theme in close cooperation with the Government of Italy. The program is designed to foster productive dialogue between civil society, governments and parliaments of the Middle East and North Africa, integrating participation of non-governmental intellectuals, political figures, media representatives and civil society experts and facilitating specific reform initiatives on issues relating to political reform, democracy and human rights. To achieve this objective, the Governments of Italy, Turkey and Yemen, as Government Sponsors of the DAD, have undertaken a consultation process with their NGO counterparts, which led to the presentation of a DAD program at the Forum for the Future meeting held in Rabat in December 2004.

Within the framework of the MENA Democracy program, NPWJ also runs an Iraq project, begun in 2006, which contributes to the constitutional and institution-building process in Iraq by promoting negotiation between leaders from the entire political spectrum on the most politically sensitive issues, including in particular the attribution of responsibilities and powers at the various levels of State, Regions, Governorates, Towns and Municipalities. By providing opportunities for open and informed debate, the Iraq project aims to help prevent or defuse negotiation deadlocks and identify durable solutions. For more information, please contact iraq@npwj.org.

Other NPWJ Programs

NPWJ's International Criminal Justice program was the original focus of NPWJ's activities and remains centred on international and national efforts to restore the rule of law and provide accountability and redress for the victims of crimes under international law, be it through the International Criminal Court, or through ad hoc Courts or Tribunals, national prosecutions or other accountability processes. The overall objective of the International Criminal Justice Program is to ensure that whatever solution is adopted, it is shaped and implemented so that it can contribute to the restoration of the rule of law, is responsive to the needs of stakeholders and adheres to the strictest human rights standards. While NPWJ continues to work towards the universality of the Rome ICC Statute by promoting its ratification and effective implementation, much of its focus is on ensuring that those crimes are properly addressed through national and international judicial processes or accountability mechanisms, with the ICC acting as a catalyst, as a guardian and as a last resort. For more information, please contact justice@npwj.org.

The Female Genital Mutilation program, begun in 2000, specifically addresses one of the most widespread and systematic violations of the human right to personal integrity, committed against



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millions of women and girls worldwide, and which goes unchallenged under the pretext of respecting local customs. The overall objective of the FGM program is to develop a political, legal and social environment that challenges attitudes and behaviours on FGM and promotes its abandonment, in the context of the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights, including through promoting the ratification and implementation of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The program builds the strategic capacity of women's rights advocates and field practitioners working on FGM and promotes legal reform as an effective tool for behavioural change in order to turn the tide of social norms against FGM. For more information, please contact fgm@npwj.org.

Priorities for action for all programs are selected on the basis of the needs as determined on the ground, involving all stakeholders in the design and implementation of activities. In advocacy activities, NPWJ raises awareness and fosters public debate through explicitly political campaigns and the implementation of key programs, such as international and regional meetings, often co-hosted and co-organised with the Government of the country in which they are held, fostering partnerships between public institutions, non-governmental organisations and other actors in society, to attain stakeholders' ownership both of the political drive and of the results. NPWJ also undertakes wide-ranging technical assistance, through the secondment of legal experts to governments for the drafting of legislation and to assist in negotiations on international human rights instruments. Finally, NPWJ has acquired unique field experience in "conflict mapping" and wide-scale documentation of violations of international humanitarian law in areas affected by conflicts and in implementing outreach programs engaging local communities in conflict and post-conflict areas on issues of international criminal justice.