Activities
Report
2008-2010

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
A Message from AHRF Board Chair, Fateh Azzam

Dear friends,

After many exciting and sometimes difficult years creating AHRF, working to resolve so much legal and logistical detail, planning our programs, and building our capacities and the confidence of our friends and partners, we are happy to present to you the first report of the first activities of the Arab Human Rights Fund. It is a landmark moment. At the end of 2010, we are proud of the achievements of the past and excited and hopeful at what lies ahead.

It is also a landmark moment for the region. We issue this report as people power reverberates across the Arab region. Individuals and communities of all ages, and social and educational backgrounds, have taken to the streets to demand democratic and accountable leadership. They want an end to power monopolies, to security-centered regimes, and to corruption. They want their human dignity and worth recognized. They demand that their human rights be respected.

This sea change is not happening in a vacuum. By the end of 2010, frustrations had accumulated over decades of human rights abuses and over political and economic policies that did not put the human person at the front and center of development. A friend of mine recently asked me whether the last 25 years of human rights activism had a role in these changes and my answer was an unhesitating “yes!” The many years of legal activism, of human rights education and training programs, of public discussion and reports have made human rights a household word and part of the political lexicon of the region. In nearly every demonstration, we are now seeing the language of rights and entitlements, of accountability and of participation. Make no mistake: human rights are at the heart of this exciting promise of change.

However, a promise remains a promise until it is fulfilled. The hard work of rebuilding democratic institutions and governance structure capable of respecting and protecting human rights is under way. There is so much to do and the time to do it is now. What the new generation of young people has shown us is that we can no longer afford to wait for a new leader or a new ideology; it is up to each and every one of us. They are also showing us that long-term sustainable change can only come from within our region.

We at AHRF believe that human rights law and standards are at the core of successful future change in the Arab region. For our part, we promise you to continue to support those struggling towards this change through advocacy, education, litigation, research or others methods to promote any and all human rights.

Our record of the past three years speaks for itself, but we must always look to the future. We call upon you to continue to help us help those involved in this grand endeavor. It’s a long road ahead, and we are bound to travel it together.

Fateh
Mission and Objectives

The Arab Human Rights Fund is a not-for-profit philanthropic organization that supports the promotion and realization of human rights through grants to human rights organizations in the Arab region. Governed by a diverse Board of Directors composed of respected members from the region’s human rights, philanthropic and civil society communities, the Fund is independent of any governmental, political, religious or other interests and is committed to operating with transparency and accountability.

The Arab Human Rights Fund was formed at the behest of the Arab region’s human rights community to serve as a funding agency with an enduring commitment to the region, to the full spectrum of human rights, and to the painstaking work of building the region’s human rights infrastructure. AHRF works directly and consults widely and regularly with human rights defenders throughout the region to identify appropriate and promising strategies for human rights promotion, in accordance with the needs of the region.

The Fund also works to cultivate domestic funding for human rights, promote the concept of social justice philanthropy within the Arab region, and build productive relationships between human rights practitioners and colleagues in the development, media and social service arenas. In these and other ways AHRF hopes to expand and enhance the support available for human rights activities in the Arab region.

Modest Beginnings

For over two decades, human rights activists and organizations in the Arab region called for the establishment of an indigenous fund to support their work to promote and defend human rights. With financial and administrative support from the Ford Foundation, a committee was formed to explore the feasibility of establishing such a funding agency. Over the course of four years the Committee commissioned a series of studies and consulted widely to determine how best to set up a funding entity inside the region. Encouraged by their findings and the enthusiastic support received at home and abroad, the Committee laid the foundations for the launch of the Arab Human Rights Fund in 2008.

Fateh Azzam | Founding Member, Preparatory Committee and Board
Atallah Kuttab | Founding Member, Preparatory Committee and Board
Amin Mekki Medani | Founding Member, Preparatory Committee
Y oursy Moustafa | Coordinator, Preparatory Committee, 2003-2006
Mona Younis | Founding Member, Preparatory Committee and Board

The Fund gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of
Emma Playfair, Regional Representative, Ford Foundation (2001-2008)
Grantmaking Program (2008-2010)

Samar Haidar, Program Officer

The spring of 2008 witnessed the much-anticipated launch of the AHRF and its first call for grant applications to support human rights in the Arab region. As the Fund’s first Program Officer, I look back on our first three years with pride and enthusiasm. Seeing how the Fund has grown over three years and the warm reception from the region’s human rights community—whose call for such a Fund was the driving force behind its establishment—has been rewarding. We were delighted by the response to the Fund’s first call for grant applications, which saw 135 groups from 14 Arab countries and 1948 Palestinian organizations submitting applications. That response made us keenly aware of both the expectations and the responsibility before us as the first Fund formed for and by human rights practitioners in the region. Our initial round of grants to 25 organizations in 12 countries was an exciting and inspiring start, but it was only a start as we were very aware of the enormity of the needs and challenges in the region.

In its few years, the Fund’s small but dynamic staff has extended the reach and the work to much of the region’s human rights community. Each year we see a steadily growing number of grant applications, nearly doubling by 2010. Over this period, we had the great privilege of awarding 55 grants to support a wide range of human rights efforts, including advocacy to defend indigenous people’s rights, a campaign to prevent child trafficking and sexual exploitation, legal reform to protect women trade unionists, monitoring of anti-terrorism laws to ensure their adherence to human rights standards, among many others. We also have sought to provide the capacity building and technical assistance groups need to improve their effectiveness and increase their likelihood of success.

The Fund’s grantees have carried out ground-breaking work under the most difficult circumstances, facing restrictive NGO laws or out-right prohibition of human rights activities. They have expressed their appreciation for our clear and flexible procedures, our use of the Arabic language, our willingness to support excellent groups despite government obstacles to their registration, our enthusiasm for new and innovative techniques and approaches, and our readiness to provide core support at a time when most funders prefer to support project-based activities. We’re honored to be a part of their efforts and are committed to expanding our support and becoming better grantmakers to meet their needs. In that objective we are inspired by the courage and initiative of the Arab region’s human rights community.

“We’re honored to be a part of [our grantees’] efforts and are committed to expanding our support and becoming better grantmakers to meet their needs.”

Samar
Grantees 2008-2010

Summary
2009: 25 grants totaling $297,907
2010: 28 grants totaling $352,500

Beneficiary Countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, 1948 Palestinians, Somalia & Somaliland, Sudan, and Yemen

Note: Some grantees are not identified out of concern for their security.

Al-Haq
Ramallah, Palestine (West Bank)
To support core activities in the field of human rights and humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories
$10,000 (2009)

To support EU advocacy through the permanent presence of an Al-Haq representative in Brussels
$15,000 (2010)

Al Amal
Kirkuk, Iraq
To document honor crimes and other violence against women in Kirkuk
$10,000 (2010)

ALEF (L’Association Libanaise pour l’Éducation et la Formation) and Soins Infirmiers et Developpement Communautaire (SIDC)
Beirut, Lebanon
To advocate for the prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation in Lebanon
$20,000 (2009)

Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI)
Cairo, Egypt
To publish the third report on internet access and freedom in the Arab region
$13,400 (2009)

Ashkal Alwan
Beirut, Lebanon
To advocate for freedom of expression and the Draft Law on the Press to end censorship of the press, cinema and theater in Lebanon
$10,000 (2010)

Assiwar – The Arab Feminist Movement in Support of Victims of Sexual Assaults
Haifa
To enhance education on gender equality in schools, with a focus on education to end sexual abuse
$10,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)

Association Djazairouna
Blida, Algeria
To provide psycho-social support, counseling and legal aid services for victims of violence in Algeria
$15,000 (2009); $15,000 (2010)

Association Marocaine des Déficients Moteurs (AMDM)
Rabat, Morocco
To monitor implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to promote their right to political participation
$10,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)

Association Mauritanienne pour la Santé de la Mère et de l’Enfant (AMSME)
Nouakchott, Mauritania
To educate local authorities, judges, the public and the organization’s staff on sexual exploitation and violence against women
$10,000 (2009)

Association Voix de Femmes Marocaines (AVFM)
Agadir, Morocco
To reinforce capacities of local NGOs working to foster respect for human rights
$10,000 (2009)

To create an Information and Training Center on gender equality in the region of Souss Massa Deraa
$10,000 (2010)

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
Bethlehem, Palestine (West Bank)
To support activities aimed at generating political will for ending Palestinian displacement and implementing rights-based durable solutions
$10,000 (2009)

To expand legal advocacy efforts by establishing a representative in the United States to advocate with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Administration, and the United Nations
$15,000 (2010)
Bahrain Women Association (BWA)
Manama, Bahrain
To promote women’s social status and end discrimination against women via legal reforms on the right to citizenship, based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
$20,000 (2009); $20,000 (2010)

Campaign for the Right to Enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)
Palestine
To secure a transparent and fair policy regarding entry and re-entry of residents and visitors in the OPT (East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and West Bank)
$15,000 (2010)

Centre Libanais des Droits Humains (CLDH)
Beirut, Lebanon
To support core activities to end arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and impunity
$7,500 (2009)

Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF)
Sana’a, Yemen
To increase public awareness of citizenship and to strengthen accountability and participation in five governorates
$10,000 (2009)

Comité de Femmes SNAPAP
Alger, Algeria
To strengthen the unity and autonomy of trade unions in Algeria, particularly women’s trade unions
$11,000 (2010)

Ebhar Foundation for Childhood and Creativity
Sana’a, Yemen
To support work with young artists (painters) to promote human rights through new media tools
$10,000 (2009)

The Egyptian Center for Housing Rights (ECHR)
Cairo, Egypt
To address and defend indigenous people’s rights (Nubians) in Egypt
$15,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)

Federation of Workers Councils and Unions in Iraq (FWCUI)
Baghdad, Iraq
To train cadres from both sexes to monitor the human rights situation of workers, carry out a field study, and propose legislation on workers’ rights
$8,330 (2009)

Hadaf Human Rights Center
Gaza, Palestine
To establish a Youth Human Rights Watch in Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds Universities to monitor and report on violations against university students’ rights
$12,000 (2010)

Helem, Lebanese protection for the rights of LGBTs
Beirut, Lebanon
To produce “Know Your Rights!,” an informational booklet on legal rights for LGBT individuals in Lebanon
$10,000 (2009)

To empower activists on sexual rights, especially LGBTQ activists in the region, with tools to develop strategies to work on rights related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)
$15,000 (2010)

The Jordan River Foundation (JRF)
Amman, Jordan
To hold a children’s forum on children’s protection help lines
$10,000 (2009)

The Jordanian Organization Mubadarat for Development
Amman, Jordan
To produce a human rights radio program at Yarmouk University FM station to increase public awareness in four districts in the north of Jordan and among students in five public and private universities
$12,000 (2010)

Kayan - Feminist Organization
Haifa
To counter gender-biased religious family law and sexual harassment in the workplace through awareness building, research, advocacy, and legal action
$10,000 (2010)

Land Center for Human Rights (LCHR)
Cairo, Egypt
To defend the human rights of farmers in Egypt
$13,677 (2009); $15,000 (2010)

The Mediator for Democracy and Human Rights
Rabat, Morocco
To monitor public policies in relation to anti-terrorism law and its impact on human rights
$20,000 (2010)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGO El Wafa</td>
<td>Nouakchott, Mauritania</td>
<td>To improve the knowledge and understanding of the public, local authorities, and elected representatives on issues of gender and development</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization Marocaine des Droits de l’Homme (OMDH)</td>
<td>Rabat, Morocco</td>
<td>To enhance the capacity of the organization’s activists to better defend human rights</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq (OWFI)</td>
<td>Baghdad, Iraq</td>
<td>To support human rights monitoring in women’s prisons in Baghdad and Mosul</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$10,000 (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psycho-Social Counseling Center for Women (PSCCW)</td>
<td>Bethlehem, Palestine (West Bank)</td>
<td>To educate Palestinian Authority police officers in Bethlehem and Hebron on women’s rights</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$15,000 (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawt al-Amel (The Workers’ Voice)</td>
<td>Nazareth</td>
<td>To establish a cadre of Arab women activists with skills to advocate for socio-economic rights, and to link Palestinian women activists in Israel with human-rights defenders in the Arab region and beyond</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Care Foundation - Youth Coalition Group for Human Rights</td>
<td>Aden, Yemen</td>
<td>To train young lawyers on human rights litigation and to enable a group of young human rights defenders to promote democracy, citizenship and human rights in three governorates</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA)</td>
<td>Somaliland, Somalia</td>
<td>To increase public awareness on human rights, democratic values and good governance among the most disadvantaged groups</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$15,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamkeen Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>To train lawyers and judges on the implementation of international human rights conventions in the Jordanian judiciary</td>
<td>2009; 2010</td>
<td>$15,000 (2009); $17,500 (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umam Documentation and Research</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon</td>
<td>To gather information on cases of disappearance during the civil war in Lebanon</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Hand Development Organization for Child Rights</td>
<td>Khartoum, Sudan</td>
<td>To educate police officers on women’s right; enhance their communication and intervention skills with female street vendors (tea and vegetables merchants); and establish an organization to defend these worker’s rights</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$15,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAWA Network (We Are Women Activists)</td>
<td>Bosaso, Somalia</td>
<td>To reduce human rights violations and secure the enactment of policies that protect Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Puntland</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$10,000 (2009); $10,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen National Coalition for Child Rights Care (YNGOC)</td>
<td>Sana’a, Yemen</td>
<td>To publish an annual report on the situation of children’s rights (CR) in Yemen; develop the monitoring unit through a network of 43 NGOs and GONGOs; and build on capacities of CR organizations on child rights protection in three cities</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$15,000 (2010)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“AHRF is a new model for how people can not only implement human rights, but also take responsibility to support others working in the region.”
—Yousry Moustafa
Board Member

“Support for the Fund is support for the independence and advancement of the region.”
—Naima Benwakrim
Board Member

Grantmaking Statistics
These graphs and charts represent our first three years of grantmaking by country, method and constituency.
How You Can Help

Through your contribution to the Fund you can be a part of our efforts to promote, protect and defend human rights in the Arab region. Your gift will help sustain and expand our support for the vital efforts being undertaken to make human rights a reality for all in the Arab region.

Donations can be made through:

Credit Card: Via the Friends of the Arab Human Rights Fund at the King Baudouin Foundation (KBFUS) in New York: www.kbfus.org. Kindly click the “Donate Now” button.

Check: Please make payable to the Arab Human Rights Fund. To post, see our contact information at the end of this report.

Wire Transfer: Some or all of the following details may be required:

Bank Name: ABN Amro
Account name: The Arab Human Rights Fund Stichting
Bank Address: Blaak 555, P.O. Box 1045
3000 BA Rotterdam, The Netherlands
IBAN ($): NL55ABNA 0242 088 678
IBAN (€): NL18ABNA 0243 049 838
SWIFT/BIC Code: FTSB NL 2R

More details and information can be found on our website—just click “To Donate.”

“The only way that we can sustain this development through the right-based approach is by having continuous funding from the local sources”

—Ghanim Al-Najjar
Board Member
### Financial Report
(Copies of the Auditor’s report are available upon request.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$436,100.00</td>
<td>$303,154.00</td>
<td>$617,636.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$425,000.00</td>
<td>$297,784.00</td>
<td>$614,969.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$11,100.00</td>
<td>$5,370.00</td>
<td>$2,666.67</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$262,879.00</td>
<td>$575,884.00</td>
<td>$644,604.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grantmaking</td>
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<td>$298,907.00</td>
<td>$373,047.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$262,879.00</td>
<td>$276,977.00</td>
<td>$271,556.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Fateh Azzam, Chairman**  
  Regional Representative, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Middle East, Lebanon
- **Atallah Kuttab, Treasurer**  
  Director General, Welfare Association, Palestine
- **May Abboud, Secretary**  
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  Project Manager, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Egypt
- **Leila Zerrougui**  
  Deputy Special Representative, UN Secretary General for the DRC (MONUC), Democratic Republic of the Congo

### AHRF STAFF 2008-2010

- **Fouad Hamdan, Executive Director**
- **Farah Awada, Finance Officer**
- **Samar El-Zein, Finance & Administration Officer**
- **Nour Hemici, Program Assistant**
- **Dalila Mehdawi, Junior Professional**
- **Janan Akkad, Intern**
- **Natalie Harake, Intern**
- **Farah Madadha, Intern**
- **Tania Tarraf, Intern**

### AHRF CURRENT STAFF

- **Mona Younis, Interim Executive Director**
- **Samar Haidar, Program Officer**
- **Leila Garbouj, Program Officer**
- **Wadiaa Barakat, Finance Officer**
- **Aimee Thomson, Operations Officer**

### Contact Us

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