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Chairman’s Message

Another year has gone by and the excitement of what we called “the Arab Spring” has given way to worries over where the Arab region is heading. The debates have been acrimonious and divisive in Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Yemen, and few of the newly adopted constitutions have met their people’s hopes for a higher standard of constitutional guarantees of rights and freedoms. In Libya the new government is still trying to assert the authority of law over arms, while in Syria the tragic daily loss of human life continues with no end in sight. Across the region, there are growing concerns for women’s rights, and there’s no real improvement in the economies of the region as countries fall deeper into poverty and debt. Ordinary people, indeed the most impoverished and marginalized of them, are paying the heaviest and often ultimate price for intransigent or confused leadership.

The picture, however, is not entirely gloomy. We are seeing the emergence of a much more vibrant and vocal civil society and a veritable explosion of new organizations all across the region. They are extensively using social media and cyber networks. Peoples’ demands for dignity, freedom, social justice and people-centered policies – in short, the demands for human rights – have not abated.

The Arab Human Rights Fund has already felt the pressure through a significant increase in letters of inquiry and grant requests. Our small but dedicated staff was compelled to suspend the open call for proposals for much of 2012 in order to deal with an ever-increasing backlog of requests, each of which had the right to receive equal attention. The result was just over $1 million in grants during the year, almost half of the total amount granted since the beginning of our activities in 2008. That total passed the $2 million mark in 2012. Compared to other philanthropies, the amounts may be small, but we are pleased with the qualitative thrust of those grants, and the Board’s thanks go mainly to AHRF staff’s astute eye for quality projects that can make a difference.

I am also pleased to report that AHRF has significantly improved its outreach capacities, thanks to a focused Communications Department. During 2012 we reached out to and engaged with the business community on corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship, collaborated with regional and international funders in learning and focusing work on the region, initiated public awareness campaigns to galvanize interest in particular issues such as discrimination, women’s rights and the right to education, and initiated a periodic newsletter to keep our friends and cohorts fully informed of our activities.

In 2012, the AHRF Board was sad to say goodbye to our friend and colleague Leila Zerrougui (Algeria), whose legal and international experience provided a valuable contribution over the past number of years. And we are pleased to welcome to the Board two new members: Dr. Mariz Tadros (Egypt) and Dr. Fahed Al-Rashed (Kuwait). We look forward to maintaining the Board’s commitment and energy to the vision of the Arab Human Rights Fund.

Finally, sincere thanks are due to the Executive Director and staff of the AHRF, to whom goes the greatest credit in managing and implementing the daily work. I note in particular the qualitative edge that we have in our small staff, and their dedication to do the most possible with the little available. Thank you, and bon courage for next year.

Fateh Azzam

BE PART OF OUR MISSION IN SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARAB REGION
If there exists one certainty about the countries where an uprising managed to topple the regime, it is that the visible concrete outcomes are so far not encouraging. Despite the removal of some dictators and other personalities, the prevailing impression is that the underlying mentalities, processes, and procedures of the previous regimes remain, either just as they used to be or slightly mutated to fit the new landscape. The proponents of this theory believe that the remnants of the past era are not gone and, in some cases, they might actually have been strengthened. The same old mentalities persist and there seems to be very little progress to report at this level.

While it is unrealistic to expect quick and radical change in just a couple of years, the real worry is whether a genuine transition process has actually begun. Analogies can be drawn between the current changes in the Arab region and the transition of East Europe in the nineties following the dissolution of the Soviet Empire. In most of these latter countries, the transition was long and in few cases it was bloody and painful. By comparison with the Arab region, two major differences can be highlighted: first, unlike the Arab uprisings, Eastern European countries witnessed a relatively low level of violence. Nevertheless, they often had to deal with controversial and complicated issues such as forced demographic changes (by the Soviets), the role and protection of minorities, and the challenges related to transitional justice, rebuilding economies, and reforming state institutions including the military. The second difference is that Eastern Europeans felt palpable progress as they moved through the transition, sometimes only within a period of months or few years. The most noticeable one was the radical change in the State approach to various issues; an element that the Arab societies have not witnessed yet.

By definition, a revolution goes beyond the change of the ruling elite to affecting the social order and social organization, two aspects that are still missing in the current uprisings. A revolution must be accompanied by a change in the social behavior and lead to an “evolution” of the social paradigms. This cannot be achieved without the involvement of all social structures not only in public actions (demonstrations, sit-ins, protests, marches, etc.) but, more importantly, through the generation of a new social order and a reform of the underlying structures.

In this context of questionable transitions, a civil war in Syria and growing tensions in many other countries, the Fund is striving to support initiatives in the region to ensure that human rights values are on top of the agenda. As such, we are looking forward to establishing partnerships with new actors within emerging civil societies, professional actors, the private sector, and various governments. The social change is the job of every single person in the region. No one should be excluded.

Dr. Elie Abouaoun
The Year in Numbers

Grants made in 2012: 28

Total amount for 2012: $1,037,308

Up to end of year Facebook likes: 1364

Total years of staff experience: 86

Nationalities (Board & Staff): 11

Countries supported in 2012: 8

AHRF Key Dates

Preparatory Committee begins work on creating an Arab human rights fund 2002

Fund registered in The Netherlands November 2005

Fund launched, issues first call for proposals March 2008

Fund exceeds 1 million dollars in total grants September 2011

The Fund exceeds $2 Million of total grants September 2012

The Fund won the “Regional Foundation of the year Award for 2012” December 2012

2002 Preparatory Committee begins work on creating an Arab human rights fund
Grantmaking Report

As of December 2012, the Fund has had the great privilege of awarding 114 grants totaling $2,269,139 to 90 groups and individuals to support a wide range of human rights efforts in 20 Arab countries.

Crossing $2,000,000 in grants is a significant milestone in the road towards sustainable support for human rights in the region, working in very challenging circumstances, to implement strategic and timely human rights interventions. Over this period, we were honored to award 114 grants to support a wide array of human rights initiatives such as, promoting community-led calls for legal reforms on women’s rights, enabling parliamentarians to monitoring state budget and detect corruption, engaging the population in the constitution-making process, among many others. The Fund also supported, through a number of capacity building grants, nascent groups and actors in the countries currently undergoing a transition, to enhance their financial, managerial and programmatic capacities.

Throughout our work, the Fund’s grantees have expressed their appreciation to the assistance provided by the Fund’s team to improve their grant applications, our flexibility in adapting the terms of the application to meet the needs of the grantees without pressuring them to change their priorities in order to qualify for funding, and at a later stage, the Fund’s help in communicating and publicizing the grantees’ work, providing them with occasions to collaborate with other relevant groups.

With the increasing number of grant requests that were submitted in response to our multiple calls for grant applications over the past years, we were able to reach out to a large number of new actors in the human rights ecosystem. That made us keenly aware of the importance of expanding our program team, increasing our funding resources, and constantly improving our policies and procedures, to be a better grantmaker and meet the expectations at local, national and regional levels.

In 2012 the Fund made 28 grants totaling $1,037,308 to support human rights projects in 20 Arab countries within its two funding streams: General Funding Program and Countries in Transition Initiative. The Fund is proud that its grants work to:

- Support the production of a feature film tackling the human rights situation of prisoners and religious minorities in Egypt and to document the making-off in a video blog that will serve as learning material for young filmmakers.
- Support capacity building of young journalists and citizen journalists in Kirkuk to advocate for their human rights through an independent news website “KirkukNow”
- Produce a participatory television program promoting community-led calls for legal reforms affecting the human rights of women in the occupied Palestinian territories.
- Provide training for Yemeni parliamentary members and staff, and media and civil society professionals to improve legislative capacity to monitor the state’s budget and expenditure and detect corruption.
- Introduce Tunisian youth in Kelibia and adjacent areas to basic human rights principles, and mobilize them to engage in human rights issues, join existing human rights networks and establish their own human rights groups.
- Build a team of Yemeni youth who are knowledgeable of key concepts of good governance, corruption as well as international and national laws and instruments to combat corruption, in order to be engaged with other civil society actors in actions against corruption.
- Build on the capacity of Tunisian and Yemeni nascent organizations through developing their managerial structure and financial system and enhance their knowledge on human rights topics and methods to enable them to better carry out their work.
- Fostering a regional debate between traditional actors and experts in the field of human rights and emerging actors, on the new approaches, strategies for action, tools and resources needed to effectively contribute to the processes of transition to democracy in their respective countries.
- Creating and nurturing a sense of ownership among Libyan citizens in the constitution-making process through educating them about their rights within the constitution, and providing them with a forum for debate and dialogue to voice out their expectations and concerns about their constitution and advocate for their recommendations to be adopted by the Constitutional Drafting Committee.
- Supporting the promotion and integration of human rights values, non-discrimination, and peaceful conflict resolution into the formal educational system in Jordan and Lebanon.

Field Visits and Outreach

The team conducted many field visits during 2012. The objectives of these visits were to promote the Fund among human rights groups and organizations, to deepen the Fund’s knowledge regarding civil society development, to explore the opportunities and challenges in the visited countries, and to identify potential applicants.

Tunisia Learning Visit

The AHRF actively contributed to a learning visit to Tunisia from 8 to 10 May organized by the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) and Ariadne-European Human Rights Funders Network. The purpose of the visit was to allow international funding organizations to learn about the region through a local lens and to gain clear insight into the needs and perspectives of local actors. Most importantly, it created spaces for regional and Tunisian actors to be exposed to the mindset of international human rights funders, opening the door for a two-way interaction to the benefit of all parties.

Finally, the Fund took advantage of the opportunity to conduct an informal field visit, during which team members met with peer European and regional organizations to discuss strategic partnerships. The Fund’s program team also met with six applicants to develop their proposals and provide technical support.

The Fund’s first visit to Libya

The Executive Director, Dr. Elie Abouaoun, conducted the Fund’s first field visit to Libya from 1 to 4 May 2012. The objectives were to reach out to main international NGOs (INGO) and donors operational in Libya and gain a better understanding of the landscape of the nascent civil society in Libya. The visit was very useful; the Fund met ten INGO/donor agencies and eight local NGOs, in addition to meetings with the Deputy Minister of Culture and Civil Society and the Director of the Support Center for Civil Society. Between May and June 2012 and to establish a dialogue with the relevant national authorities on how to best support the nascent civil society in Libya.

Looking Ahead

The Fund is confident that with rebuilding and expanding its Grants program team, which will consist as of December 2012, of a program assistant, two program officers and a program manager, will be able to regain the normal pace of its work. Upon completion of five years of grantmaking in 2013, the program team had planned an evaluation to assess the impact of the Fund’s grants.

In 2013, the Fund is well-prepared to consolidate its work in a more efficient manner in countries where it is active and hopefully expand its reach, especially in countries where awareness of the Fund’s work is limited. The team plans three field visits to Egypt, Libya and Yemen during 2013, in order to identify new groups and monitor the implementation of granted projects during the transition.
In 2012, the Arab Human Rights Fund awarded 28 grants totaling $1,037,308 to 28 organizations, groups or individuals to support human rights work in 20 Arab countries.

General Funding Program: Seven grants. Countries in Transition Initiative: 21 grants.

**General Funding Program**

**Al-Haq**

Ramallah, Palestine
To support monitoring and documenting of human rights violations, legal research, and advocacy work to uphold the rule of law and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt).
$40,000

**American University of Beirut**

Ras Beirut, Lebanon
To map and assess evolving trends in corporate sustainability and social entrepreneurship across the Arab region. The project, the first of its kind, aims to understand the environment available for this kind of work as well as to provide recommendations for future developments by using the data gathered to stimulate dialogue and exchange best practices.
$5,000

**Arab Network for Human Rights and Citizenship Education**

Amman, Jordan
To support the promotion and integration of human rights values, non-discrimination, and peaceful conflict resolution into the formal educational system in Jordan and Lebanon.
$120,000

**Independent Media Centre in Kurdistan**

Kirkuk, Iraq
To provide capacity building programs for young journalists and citizen journalists in Kirkuk that will allow them to advocate for their human rights through an independent news website “KirkukNow”.
$38,000

**Lebanese Center for Human Rights**

Beirut, Lebanon
To support documenting, monitoring and reporting, and advocacy work to address the issues of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and the impunity of those perpetrating gross human rights violations.
$40,000

**MA’ AN Network**

Bethlehem, Palestine
To produce a participatory television program promoting community-led calls for legal reforms affecting the human rights of women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt).
$35,000

**Notre Dame University - Department of Political Science**

Louaizeh, Lebanon
To conduct a human rights trivia competition among high school students to test their knowledge and raise their awareness, and that of their fellow students about main contemporary human rights issues at both the local and international level.
$4,500

Countries in Transition Initiative

**ACT du Kef**

Kef, Tunisia
To contribute to the development of the governorate of Kef by highlighting the relationship between culture and economic development on one hand and culture and democracy-building on the other hand through a series of cultural cinematographic and theater activities and debates that will involve different segments of the society in the elaboration of a rights-based model of development.
$15,932

**Arab Institute for Human Rights**

Tunis, Tunisia
To foster a debate at the regional level between traditional and emerging actors and experts in the field of human rights on new approaches, strategies for action, and needed tools and resources to effectively contribute to the processes of democratic transition in their respective countries.
$39,775

**Association de l’Action Civique de Kélibia**

Kelibia, Tunisia
To introduce basic human rights principles to youth, and mobilize them to engage in human rights activism, join existing human rights networks, and establish their own human rights groups.
The project will conduct four training workshops for 50 youth aged 18-25 from the town of Kélibia and surrounding rural areas and support them in starting youth clubs and implementing human rights-related activities in their communities or educational institutes.
$28,000

**Association for the development of the youth cultural and civic skills**

Tunis, Tunisia
To train youth on the use of media as a tool to communicate their vision of a democratic school to educational actors and organizations, and enable them to propose solutions for a school based on the values and principles of human rights and democracy.
$39,121

**Al Meidan**

Al Qalyoubia, Egypt
Almaidan will raise the awareness of youth between the ages of 18-27 in Al Qalyoubia on economic and social rights and create a network to document violations and coordinate with other CBO’s to provide assistance.
$32,420

**Egyptian Union of Liberal Youth**

Cairo, Egypt
To create and foster a sense of ownership among Libyan citizens in the constitution-making process by educating them about their rights within the constitution, providing them with a forum for debate and dialogue to voice their expectations and concerns surrounding their constitution, and advocating that their recommendations be adopted by the Constitutional Drafting Committee.
$40,000

**Mashrou3 (Initiative of Independent Filmmakers)**

Cairo, Egypt
To support the production of a feature film tackling the human rights situation of prisoners and religious minorities in Egypt and to document the making-of in a video blog that will serve as learning material for young filmmakers.
$39,600

**Sami Ben Younes (Human Rights Activist)**

Tunis, Tunisia
To allow Mr. Ben Younes, a candidate with disabilities for membership in the National Council of Liberties, to participate in a training course organized by the Egyptian Association for the Disabled on raising awareness in the political, electoral, and parliamentary elections for people with disabilities.
$1,430

**International Federation of Medical Students’ Association**

Egypt, Egypt
To raise awareness on human rights standards and issues among students from university campuses in eight governorates covering the Delta, Upper Egypt, and Suez Canal.
$17,591.52

**Law Company for Justice and Peace**

Cairo, Egypt
To organize a conference where journalists, clerics, and jurists are invited to denounce and expose the abuses and oppression committed by the Egyptian military authority against Egyptian civil society.
$2,000

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Sharq Media
Tripoli, Libya
To acknowledge the rights of survivors and victims of Ghaddafi-era human rights violations by documenting their stories through interviews and short films published online and in print, in order to give a voice to the victims and raise awareness on human rights violations among Libyan citizens.
$38,250

Social Democratic Forum
Sanaa, Yemen
To allow forty youth aged 22-30 to participate over the summer in a 36-day training program on fighting corruption, after which they will receive a diploma, accredited by the Ministry of Education. The students will also conduct field visits to governmental institutions responsible for combating corruption, attend public discussions, and present their findings.
$30,000

Social Development and Empowerment Center
Tunis, Tunisia
To enhance the role of schools in disseminating principles of citizenship and human rights through the establishment of 12 citizenship clubs in elementary and high schools, thereby enabling students to actively participate in changing their communities.
$26,953

The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services
Cairo, Egypt
To improve the quality of life of around 550 “children at risk” and their families in Egypt. Specifically, community based organizations, private and public institutions, and elected children committees will advocate for child rights—particularly children’s access to education and health services—improve the stakeholders’ performance with regards to “children at risk,” and develop district based interventions plans that will lead to better inclusion of children in the education system and better access to children’s health services.
$120,000

Tunis Center for Freedom of the Press
Tunis, Tunisia
To organize a series of theoretical trainings and practical exercises for journalists and activists in the neglected north-west and southern regions of Tunisia (al Jihat) on the use of media as a tool to raise awareness on human rights issues. The project will support awareness raising campaigns around a core human right that is a priority in each of two regions in Tunisia.
$56,150

Tunisian Forum for Youth Empowerment
Tunis, Tunisia
To build the financial, managerial, and programmatic capacity of the organization, which will enable them to better carry out their work.
$21,275

Tunisian Institutional Reform
Tunis, Tunisia
To build the capacities of the organization’s employees and core members, thereby enabling them to recruit and mobilize new members and design a community organizing strategy, to guide their work on police reform.
$28,700

Yemen Center for Civil Rights
Sanaa, Yemen
To engage various civil society actors in discussions leading to a memorandum on the main international human rights’ standards to be mainstreamed in the new Yemeni Constitution.
$26,600

Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms
Sanaa, Yemen
To develop the organization’s managerial structure and financial systems, and build the capacity of 15 members in human rights mechanisms and organizational skills.
$37,510

Yemen PAC
Sanaa, Yemen
To provide a training for members of parliamentary committees, as well as a selected number of media and civil society representatives, to improve legislative capacity to monitor the state’s budget and expenditure and detect corruption.
$33,500

Together to eliminate all forms of violence against women in the Arab Region
Grants Highlights

Ma’an Network
Bethlehem, Palestine
Project Location: oPt with satellite linkup to Egypt & Jordan

This grant allowed Ma’an Network, the only local media organization with a presence in both the West Bank and Gaza, to produce the first live and participatory television program “Anti” addressing issues highlighting the legal system’s impact on women within the oPt (e.g. family violence, legal, social and institutional discrimination). The program was broadcasted weekly between June and September 2012 via MA’AN Mix satellite television to audiences across the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe. The program hosted, during its 10 episodes, legal and human rights experts and religious figures from West Bank, Gaza, the 1948 Palestine, Jordan and Egypt (via fiber link), in addition to affected women. 20 pre-recorded feature stories were showed during episodes enabling affected women to share their experiences. All case bearers mentioned in feature stories were linked with decision makers and key people who were studio guests in the each respective episode. Therefore they received assistance in the form of legal advice, social counseling and/or other information/support. The Mufti of Palestine, studio guest in the episode on divorce rights was able to support the court proceedings of a number of women seeking their right to get divorced. He directly interacted with affected women and acted as a crucial link in supporting women’s rights to divorce according to all legal standards.

MA’AN also published via its website 10 feature articles, analyzing the issues as discussed throughout each episode, and promoting public debate among readers. MA’AN examined public feedback on the program, by undertaking focus groups in women’s rights organizations and with media agencies. Summarizing the users’ comments, they found the ten selected topics useful and crucial to women rights. Almost all comments referred to the wish of continuation of the program suggesting further topics such as “women in the field of politics”, “effects of poverty on women” amongst many others.

Lawyers for Justice in Libya (Destoori)
Tripoli, Libya

AHRF’s grant allowed Lawyers for Justice in Libya to continue its work on fostering a sense of ownership among Libyan citizens in the constitution-making process. The Destoori Project continues to educate citizens about their rights within the constitution, provide them with a forum for debate and dialogue to give voice to their expectations and concerns about their constitution, and advocate for their recommendations to be adopted by the Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC). LFJL produced and distributed ten thousand educational leaflets, ten thousand flyers and two hundred posters across Libya to increase public knowledge of constitutional law, and its processes and structures. LFJL also established an interactive website to serve as an online interactive forum to capture public sentiment and generate a debate about the constitution. In addition, thirty Destoori Ambassadors engaged directly with local communities regarding the constitution, and four Destoori Guides carried out 25 debate sessions in three of Libya’s regions on constitutional issues and surveyed public opinion regarding their expectations for the new constitutions. LFJL drafted a manual the Destoori Project and distributed 50 copies among Destoori Ambassadors and Guides, event attendees, and LFJL trainers and staff. The Destoori Project published a bilingual report compiling responses to the public survey, which was also shared with the CDC. Three high-level roundtable meetings were also held with CDC members and key stakeholders to advocate on behalf of the citizens’ recommendations and ensure that they are reflected in the new draft constitution.

Social Democratic Forum (SDF)
Sana’a, Yemen

Fund support allowed the Social Democratic Forum (SDF) to build the capacity of 40 young Yemenis from Sana’a aged 22 to 30 to be knowledgeable about the good governance, international and national laws, and human rights instruments, and enable them to engage with other civil society actors in actions against corruption. The selected youth participated over the summer of 2012 in a 36-day educational program that included field visits to governmental institutions responsible for combating corruption, public discussions, and presentations by the participants on their finding. The participants completed a diploma on fighting corruption accredited by the Ministry of Education. SDF has published the related training module entitled “Fighting Corruption” in more than a thousand copies. The participating youth also contributed to the research and drafting of the yearly report prepared by the Forum on transparency and corruption. As this project reaches its final stages, SDF has approached AHRF with a new grant request to continue this project with a larger scope reaching out to the Yemeni youth in the three main governorates: Aden, Sana’a and Ta’izz. The grantee has identified a great demand among youth in that hundreds of them applied to participate in the first training program on fighting corruption. Additionally, the organization’s members are constantly approached by many interested youth in different governorates about the diploma.
International Federation of Medical Students’ Association – Egypt (IFMSA): Standing Committee on Human Rights and Peace
Giza, Egypt

The Fund’s support succeeded in raising awareness on human rights standards and issues among students from university campuses in eight governorates covering the Delta, Upper Egypt, and Suez Canal. IFMSA trained 30 trainers from seven universities located in seven provinces (Asyut, Cairo, Suez, Al Sharqiyya, Al Gharbliyah, Menoufia, and Shaq) on human rights principles. IFMSA also organized a competition on human rights for the general public, resulting in the production of lyrical poetry and films on human rights. IFMSA began an electronic awareness campaign to promote the concept of human rights, tolerance, and freedom of thought in schools, colleges and public places throughout Egypt. Finally, IFMSA organized celebrations of the International Day of Human Rights in the seven provinces.

Arab Network for Civic Education- ANHRE
Amman, Jordan
Project Location: Jordan and Lebanon

The Fund’s support will allow ANHRE through a three-year grant to promote non-discrimination and peaceful conflict resolution among children aged from 6 to 12 through playful educational activities by integrating the “Play It Fair” toolkit into the educational systems in Jordan and Lebanon.

In the first year of this grant, ANHRE was able to identify potential partners and map educational programs that were implemented by those partners with the Ministry of Education in both countries. Through a training of trainers, six ANHRE core members from Jordan and Lebanon were enabled to develop and deliver human rights education programs related to the toolkit to the identified school teachers/staff of grade I, II, and III. While ANHRE managed to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education in Lebanon on integrating “the Play it Fair” into the educational system in Lebanon, it succeeded in Jordan in signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education to include the toolkit in their national educational program.

As this project is reaching its second year, the toolkit will be integrated into the educational system in Jordan and Lebanon and 40 educational professionals from both countries will be trained to consolidate their knowledge on children’s rights and advance their training skills to develop and deliver non-formal multiculturalism and human rights education programs. A practical training manual for teachers will be developed, to enable them to implement the toolkit in their schools, and offer acquired knowledge to their peers, with continuous coaching and technical assistance from ANHRE’s members.

In the last year of the project, the children benefiting from “Play It Fair” activities will be supported in developing their self-esteem and in integrating the values of cooperation, respect for diversity, fairness, inclusion, responsibility and acceptance into their daily attitudes and behaviors, in order to be able to solve their own conflicts and problems, and positively affect their peers and in their communities.

Sharq Media – 42YO (42 Years of Oppression)
Libya

The Fund’s grant allowed Sharq Media to present the accounts of more than 40 survivors and victims of Gaddafi-era human rights abuses in written articles and five minute videos prepared by human rights and media professionals. In addition, Sharq Media developed and designed a website to give a voice to the victims and raise awareness on human rights abuses among Libyan citizens. The site, due to launch in March, will act as a platform for the dissemination of the interviews in both written and video format, in Arabic and English. All online content will be open source licensed under the Creative Commons. The videos will be overlaid with captions and disseminated widely through different media channels including Libya TV and Libya Alhurra. The website will also serve as a platform to promote the initiative and invite Libyans to contribute their stories via an online forum allowing written or video submissions. Sharq Media estimates that the site will attract one thousand unique visitors per month, and expects that it will host more than one hundred stories by spring of 2014. Sharq Media has also published ten thousand leaflets in Arabic with an introduction to human rights principles and extracts from some of the stories, and disseminated them throughout Libya via the media and civil society partners in an effort to reach individuals not active online.
**Tunisia**

$257,336

- Training 50 youths aged 18-25 on citizenship, human rights, and skills of facilitating the work of youth clubs, mobilizing youths, and implementing HR-related initiatives
- Building the capacity of 15 members (nine board and six volunteer members) on an array of topics and methods in human rights to better carry out their work
- Recruiting 40 new members to create a core team of community organizers to work on police reform in their communities
- Targeting 12 civic education inspectors (out of 24 in Tunisia) in order to institutionalize this experience and spread it to other schools
- 300 students, boys and girls (25 in each club) benefited from the active participation in initiating change in their daily life, and school life, through the club’s activities

**Lybia**

$78,250

- Presenting the stories of at least 40 people’s accounts of suffering through written articles and 5 minute videos prepared by human rights and media professionals
- Creating an online database of citizens accounts of human rights violation by inviting citizens to submit their own written or filmed interviews and personal accounts
- Promoting public awareness on the citizens’ human rights and the constitution’s contents, purposes and drafting process by engaging citizens in events and activities
- Generate a debate among Libyan population around the country’s constitution and foster a sense of ownership about it among Libyan citizens
- Three high-level roundtable meetings are held with the Constitutional Drafting Committee members and key stakeholders to advocate the citizens’ recommendations and ensure that they are reflected in the new constitution draft

**Egypt**

$291,612

- Organizing a conference inviting journalists, clerics, and jurists to denounce and expose the abuses and oppression committed by the Egyptian authority against the Egyptian Civil Society.
- Producing of an one hour and a half film “Farsh w Ghata” featuring the situation of prisoners and religious minorities in Egypt with a human rights angle
- Training Government leaders, CBOs and elected committee members on new skills related to enabling children from obtaining their rights
- Integrating and re-integrating 300 Children at risk in the formal or non-formal education system and have access to health services

**Lebanon**

$49,500

- Documenting 50 cases of victims of arbitrary detention and/or torture in detention centers every year
- Providing legal assistance and individual follow up to at least 30 victims in detention
- Promoting and publishing a book compiling stories of citizens who were engaged in peace keeping during civil war and disseminating it to 2000 persons via three TV interviews and ten media releases

**Iraq**

$38,000

- Training 15 young journalists and 30 citizen journalists on the use of media to promote human rights issues within their communities
- Publishing 100 articles on human rights issues (of which 50 will focus on women’s rights and minorities) on the website over the period of one year

**Palestine**

$75,000

- Greater level of participation by Al-Haq and other civil society organizations in the drafting of new legislation and policies that adhere with international human rights standards
- Demonstrating that targeted third-party states have greater willingness to address Israeli violations. Policymakers and diplomats have a greater knowledge and understanding of the situation in the oPt
- Broadcasting within the oPt with fiber link up to Jordan and Egypt. 10 episodes of a live satellite television program addressing the legal system’s impact on women
- Promoting public awareness on human rights violations against women in order to ignite community’s call for legal reforms

**Jordan**

$120,000

- Integrating the Play It Fair! Program into the formal educational system in Jordan and Lebanon
- Training 40 educational professionals from Jordan and Lebanon to promote human rights and peaceful conflict resolution in schools’ program and curriculum based on the Play It Fair! toolkit

**Yemen**

$127,610

- Participating of 250 community activists in dialogue workshops on Constitutional reforms and mainstreaming of human rights standards in the new Constitution
- Developing an organizational five year strategy for the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms.
- Developing an organizational structure with clear roles and responsibilities for the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms.
- Building the skills of at least 15 members in human rights mechanisms and conventions
- Training 30 members of parliamentary committees (namely development, oil, education, and financial committees) on analyzing and monitoring state budget
- Taking at least one corruption case on board by parliament, resulting in the formation of an investigative parliamentary committee and reporting about it
- Equipping 40 Yemeni youths with the theoretical background and legal knowledge about corruption and strategies to combat it
Arab Human Rights Fund
Projects by Constituency, 2012

- Professional Actors: 64%
- General Public: 57%
- Children & Youth: 29%
- Defenders: 7%
- Prisoners: 7%
- Women: 4%
- Ethnic Minorities: 4%
- Religious Minorities: 4%
- Refugees: 4%
- Indigenous Peoples: 0%
- Workers: 0%
- People With Disabilities: 0%
- Racial Minorities: 0%
- LGBTQ Peoples: 0%
- Internally Displaced Persons: 0%
- Immigrants: 0%
- Asylum Seekers: 0%
- Aging Peoples: 0%

The bar chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF grants awarded to support certain groups of people.

Arab Human Rights Fund
Projects by Locale, 2012

- National: 39.0%
- Local: 14.0%
- Regional: 14.0%
- Sub-National: 32.0%

The pie chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF grants awarded to support projects at different geographic levels.
The bar chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF grants awarded to support certain types of interventions.

The pie chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF grants awarded by grantee country.
The bar chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF grants awarded to support certain human rights issues.

The pie chart demonstrates the percentage of AHRF monies awarded by grantee country.
For decades, human rights defenders across the region have criticized the absence of sustainable indigenous funding to support human rights initiatives in the region. Now more than ever, the Fund acknowledges the intertwining relationship between the existence of a local constituency for human rights and the expansion of regional philanthropy for social justice. Accordingly, the Fund started building awareness of the value of supporting and funding human rights efforts by the region’s existing philanthropic organizations and by individual donors.

Separate and distinct from the Fund’s fundraising and communications efforts—which focus on the cultivation of financial resources from both local and international sources to support the Fund’s activities—the newly established Program (building a constituency for human rights) nurtures social justice philanthropy with activities that do not bring in direct funding.

In 2012, the Fund started putting its efforts together towards building this constituency. A lot of activities were in place to support this objective:

The Fund, a founding member of the SSE (Society for Social Entrepreneurship)

As part of the Fund’s objectives in promoting human rights & supporting philanthropy in the region, the Fund co-founded the Society of Social Entrepreneurs (SSE). SSE is a society with a main aim of promoting social entrepreneurship in Lebanon and the Region.

The Fund’s role as a main component of SSE will help emphasizing its image in front of the private sector and the community in general as well as putting human rights at the forefront of the promising social entrepreneurship agenda.

Participation in the Beirut Marathon

The Fund actively participated in the Beirut Marathon aiming at promoting human rights in the region mainly, and in Lebanon especially. This participation was crowned by almost 600 participants thankfully running with the Fund to support human rights in Lebanon.

The Fund wins the Foundations of the Year award for 2012

At the inaugural Middle East philanthropy award organized by Campden Wealth and the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and in the presence of the region’s top philanthropists and foundations, the Arab Human Rights won the regional foundation of the year award.
The Arab Human Rights Fund
Statement of financial position
As at December 31, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, net</td>
<td>39,964</td>
<td>38,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets, net</td>
<td>21,237</td>
<td>27,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61,201</td>
<td>66,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>5,202</td>
<td>2,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>845,455</td>
<td>807,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>850,657</td>
<td>810,764</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>911,858</td>
<td>876,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees benefits</td>
<td>4,529</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,529</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>467,669</td>
<td>76,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>472,198</td>
<td>76,245</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>252,067</td>
<td>504,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>187,593</td>
<td>296,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>439,660</td>
<td>800,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>911,858</td>
<td>876,776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Arab Human Rights Fund
Statement of cash flows
Years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010
(Amounts expressed in USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In USD</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations received</td>
<td>291,912</td>
<td>928,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>1,037,308</td>
<td>(1,037,308)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>1,329,497</td>
<td>(108,613)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations granted</td>
<td>(1,037,308)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative expenses</td>
<td>(252,340)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and other personnel charges</td>
<td>(292,107)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>(1,581,755)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(252,258)</td>
<td>(108,613)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of year</td>
<td>504,325</td>
<td>296,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of year</td>
<td>252,067</td>
<td>187,593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Arab Human Rights Fund
Statement of activities and changes in net assets
For the year ended 31 December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In USD</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of year</td>
<td>252,067</td>
<td>187,593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change in net assets
(360,871) | 410,824

Adjustments for:
- Depreciation and amortisation: 15,538 | 9,648
- Employees benefits: 4,529 | -

Change in receivables
(340,804) | 420,472

Change in payables
(2,393) | 101,542

Net cash flows from operating activities
48,227 | 466,525

Cash flows from investing activities
(9,819) | (21,794)

Purchase of equipment
(908) | (28,781)

Net cash flows used in investing activities
(10,727) | (50,575)

Net change in cash and cash equivalents
37,500 | 415,950

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year
807,955 | 392,005

Cash and cash equivalents at end of year
845,455 | 800,531
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Director of Al Rashed Consulting, Kuwait

Yousry Moustafa
Project Coordinator, German International Cooperation (GIZ), Egypt

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A fellow at the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex in Great Britain, Egypt

May Haddad
Community Health Advisor at ANERA

Omar Nashabe
PhD in Criminal Justice; and advisor on human rights and prisons to the Lebanese government

Wadi’ Jureidini
Professor at the American University of Beirut

Rabeh Matar
Founding partner of Levant Law Practice

Lebanese Committee Members

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Staff

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Sahar Frangieh, Grants Program Officer
Wadiaa Barakat, Finance Officer
Moustapha Mikaty, Head of Communications and Development
Karen Mahseredjian, Operations and Compliance Officer
SUPPORT US

If you believe in our mission, vision and objectives, take a step and invest in advancing human rights in your society. There are several ways you can support us safely and easily:

Gifts by credit card can be done safely on the Fund’s website. Just click here.

For US tax deductible, online donations can be done via King Baudouin Foundation in New York US website
Go to www.kbfus.org homepage, please click the “Donate Now” button and follow these steps:
Step 1: Go to “Giving Option 1: Non-Profit Partners Overseas”,
Step 2: In the Options list, select “Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF)”
Step 3: Fill-out the online form.

We also accept checks, and wire transfer to our bank account, for more details please contact us

Thank you in advance for your support!

Did you know that:

● Most of the Arab region’s giving goes to charity and humanitarian aid

● Human rights projects are wrongly perceived as exclusively political -- in fact, the Fund supports projects that encourage social, economic, and educational development

● The protection of human rights is an investment in everyone’s society that will ensure sustainable development for our economy